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Husseini: Removing Jerusalem from table would end talks

BILL HUTMAN

IF prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu removes the Jerusalem issue from negotiations with the Palestinians, it will likely mean an end to the peace process, Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, told foreign diplomats at Orient House yesterday.

Several of the foreign diplomats said Husseini was very forceful about Palestinian insistence that Israel seriously enter negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, as called for in the Oslo accords, or face a collapse of the peace process.

"If someone will say no negotiations on Jerusalem, that Jerusalem is not part of this agreement, I don't believe that this peace process will have any chance," Husseini told reporters after the meeting.

He also warned of the ill-effects of Netanyahu going through with the threat to close Orient House, the PLO headquarters in the city.

Husseini said despite his concerns over Netanyahu's plans, he is guardedly optimistic that, in the end, the new government would move ahead with the peace talks.

"Anyone who listened to Mr. Netanyahu the candidate must be worried," he said. "But listening [to him after he was elected], we have heard something else. There is hope."

Husseini also met yesterday with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (Likud), as part of the Palestinian effort to understand the intentions

High death toll in Moscow, Sao Paulo explosions

MOSCOW (AP) - A bomb ripped through a Moscow subway car last night, killing three people and injuring at least seven others, authorities said.

The explosion occurred at about 10:30 p.m. on a train approaching the Tulsikaya station in southern Moscow, metro duty officer Natalia Pomakhina said. Rescue workers evacuated the passengers in thick smoke.

Three of the injured were in serious condition, police said.

Meanwhile, an explosion tore through a shopping mall in Sao Paulo, Brazil, lunchtime, ripping holes in concrete walls and killing at least 26 people, officials said. More than 100 were injured.

Rescue workers expected to find "perhaps another 20" bodies under the rubble, said Lt. Col. Edson Alves Domingues of the Sao Paulo fire department.



President Ezer Weizman shakes hands yesterday in Istanbul with President Suleyman Demirel.

(Ya'acov Sa'ar/GPO)

Weizman: Accord with Turkey won't be canceled

STEVE RODAN ISTANBUL

NONE of the components of the Israeli-Turkish accord will be canceled, President Ezer Weizman stressed, after his meeting with President Suleyman Demirel here. But he acknowledged Israel's concern about an Islamic-led government in Ankara.

"I know President Demirel well enough, and I think that he will do all he can so that this [an Islamic government] will not happen," he said. "I also don't think the army

will sit quietly." Later, Weizman backed down and refused to confirm the statement - made to Israeli journalists en route to Istanbul - when asked about it by Turkish journalists.

Demirel refused to speak to reporters. The two are scheduled to meet again before Weizman returns.

Arriving for a two-day visit, Weizman launched into his mission to ensure the continuation of the Israeli-Turkish strategic relationship, as well as to assuage Arab opponents of the new ties. Syria has been most critical, and is said to fear a Turkish attack.

"If they think this is a great strategic plan to attack Syria from the north by Turkey, then this is rubbish," said Weizman.

Before leaving Israel, Weizman met with prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, who indicated that Israel's policy toward Turkey would continue unchanged.

"We will continue our traditional policy. There is no change here in our position," Netanyahu told reporters.

(Continued on Page 2)

IDF promises strong action against Hizbullah

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE IDF cannot accept the price it is paying in the war against Hizbullah, and is pushing to be able to respond with greater force, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said yesterday.

"Monday's attack was difficult, and the results are unacceptable for us," Levine said. "This is a difficult war. We have a tough enemy before us. We will find the ways to overcome them. We will find the ways to improve, and we will improve. We will not let Hizbullah hit the IDF like this."

"It's true we have been a bit restrained. Hizbullah is acting, and we will have to stop their activity, even by force."

An IDF inquiry into the ambush ruled that the soldiers operated according to procedure, even though all 13 members of the squad were either killed or wounded. According to the initial inquiry, the commanders and most of the soldiers were hit by the gunmen's first shots. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said there were at least three, and possibly more gunmen who opened fire from a very short range.

"When you open fire with automatic weapons from short range, the result is sometimes very difficult, as it was in this clash," he said.

He didn't rule out a Channel 1 report that said most of the shots came from one weapon.

The evacuation of the wounded was also hampered, the inquiry said, since the squad medic was wounded and the gunmen pounded the site of the attack with mortar fire.

"It turns out that the instructions were correct, the preparations were good, and the behavior of the force when it was ambushed was very good. Still, the result was not good, and we have to learn the reasons for this. I presume that this was due to tactical reasons, not instructions," a senior officer said.

The five Nahal soldiers killed in Monday's attack, Lt. Lior Ramon, 21, of Ramat Gan; Lt. Yisbai Shechter, 21, of Kedumim; St.-Sgt. Gavriel Idan, 20, of Herzliya; St.-Sgt. Eshel Ben-Moshe, 21, of Moshav Yuvalim; and Sgt. Yaniv Roimi, 21, of Afula, were all laid to rest yesterday.

Monday's ambush brought to 16 the number of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon this year.

Five of the soldiers wounded are at Haifa's Rambam Hospital and are in stable condition, deputy director Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai said.

Cpl. David Goldschleger, 19, of Kiryat Motzkin, who was seriously wounded, was able to breathe on his own soon after undergoing surgery. Sgt. Nimrod Mor, 20, of Kfar Azar, was in serious but stable condition. Sgt. Chen Aloni, 20, of Kibbutz Dorot, was in moderate condition with a broken hand and shrapnel in his eye. Cpl. Dani Brislav, 19, of Haifa, and

(Continued on Page 2)

Netanyahu pressing Shas to help placate NRP

SARAH HONIG and HERB KEINON

MK-ELECT Yitzhak Mordechai and prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's right-hand man Avigdor Lieberman were due to call on Shas's Aryeh Deri in the hospital late last night in yet another bid to find a way out of the coalition stalemate. (Deri hospitalization, Page 12)

They were presumably coming to try to elicit concessions to placate the sulking National Religious Party. In particular, they would like Shas to give up its claim to the Religious Affairs portfolio so the NRP could have it. But barring that, sources said Shas will be asked to give up a deputy ministerial appointment, so that the NRP can be compensated for getting an "inferior" second portfolio to that earmarked for Shas.

No progress was made in the coalition talks yesterday. Netanyahu continued to act optimistic, but those around him are no longer sure his government will be ready to be presented on Monday, when the new Knesset convenes for the first time.

The NRP, which endorsed Netanyahu throughout the election campaign, yesterday insisted that if it does not get a second major ministry it will not join the government.

"This is no bluff," an NRP senior official said. "This is no way to treat us. If we don't get another major ministry [in addition to Education], we won't join the coalition. Then we'll see how well the government gets along without us. In four months they will come crawling to us, we won't have to crawl to them."

NRP leader Zevulun Hammer met with Netanyahu yesterday, and left the meeting saying he was "disappointed" that he can not go to the party's secretariat and say that a deal is done.

Netanyahu and Hammer will meet again today. Netanyahu will also meet two former chief rabbis - Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu - both of whom are among the NRP's top mentors. There is speculation that Netanyahu will ask the rabbis to help sway the NRP to soften its stand, but Netanyahu aides insist these meetings were arranged over a week ago and that Netanyahu wishes to thank Shapira and Eliahu for their help during the campaign.

At yesterday's meeting, Netanyahu offered the NRP the Education Ministry and a pared-down Communications Ministry. "The Communications Ministry is not serious since he is taking Channel 2 and cable television out of the ministry and into the Prime Minister's Office," said NRP MK Shaul Yahalom.

Yahalom said that the NRP is demanding that if the Likud appoints one minister for every three Likud MKs, they must do the same thing for the other coalition partners, which would mean that the NRP is entitled to three ministers.

But if it doesn't do this, Yahalom said, then the NRP is demanding the Education Ministry and either the Housing Ministry, or the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

The NRP is upset that Shas was offered Labor and Social Affairs

(Continued on Page 2)

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Clinton to sell F-16s to Jordan

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration has notified Congress of its intention to sell F-16 fighter planes to Jordan, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday.

Christopher, speaking to reporters with King Hussein at his side following their meeting at the State Department, said the notification is a "very important step in the process" of transferring the planes to Amman.

He also said the planes are an "important aspect of the security of Jordan" and illustrate how the US supports countries that assume risks for peace.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns later said the administration expects "no problem" in gaining congressional approval of the sale by July 25. He said the requisite letter to Congress was sent on June 5; notification is required under the Arms Export Control Act.

The sale is believed to include 16 F-16A and F-16B planes from US stockpiles. The planes are to be upgraded prior to delivery, likely by American firms, although Israel Aircraft Industries has pursued the contract, too, defense experts said.

Congress has been supportive of Amman's attempt to acquire the F-

16s but last winter criticized the administration for not stating where the funds would come from. It is expected that Jordan will pay for the planes with funds from the US's military assistance program, much as Israel purchases US equipment.

During the photo opportunity, Hussein also said he saw "many reasons" to be optimistic about the incoming Netanyahu government, foremost among them Israeli voters' supporting peace by an "overwhelming majority."

Burns later told reporters that the US considered Syria's comments about premier-elect Binyamin Netanyahu "not very helpful" because they pre-judged his policies before he takes office. He said the US hopes Damascus takes a "more open-minded approach" to the new government.

Also yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed the 1997 foreign aid bill, 366-57. The Senate will take it up in the coming weeks.

The bill includes Israel's present \$3 billion economic and military aid package, and \$80 million for refugee resettlement. It also provides \$30 million to Jordan for the F-16 purchases, \$10m. in economic assistance and \$25m. in debt relief. Egypt will receive over \$2h. and the Palestinians \$75 million.

El-Baz: Summit no threat to Israel

CAIRO (AP) - Next week's Arab summit will not threaten Israel, Osama el-Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, said yesterday, seeking to allay fears in the US and Israel.

He said the summit would focus on Arab solidarity, as well as the election of Binyamin Netanyahu.

"If there are challenges from the Israeli government and the possibility of change in its position, this will be discussed, but it will be discussed in a calm, objective, logical fashion, far from hysterics, threats, and insults," el-Baz said.

Twenty of the Arab League's 22 members will attend the three-day summit, which begins on June 21. It will be the largest gathering of Arab leaders since the 1991 Gulf War.

Only Iraq and Somalia will not attend. Iraq was not invited, and Somalia's anarchy will prevent it from sending a representative, Egyptian officials said.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria called for the summit last week to agree on an Arab stance following Netanyahu's election. Some Arab countries have also hailed it as a first step in uniting a deeply divided Arab world.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged Arab countries not to take any action that would preclude a relationship between them and the new Israeli government.

Christopher said the US has urged all parties "not rush to judgment... until a new Israeli government is formed."

El-Baz said such fears are unjustified. "We are not hear to threaten or to confront people with a fait accompli. Since we rejected it from others, we do not do it ourselves," he said. "We remain open, and we remain hopeful."

Olmert denies charges against him

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert categorically denied yesterday allegations of financial wrongdoing when he served as Likud treasurer during the 1988 election campaign.

On Monday, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair informed prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu he had decided to indict Olmert. An indictment would prohibit Olmert from serving in the cabinet, according to a 1993 High Court ruling.

"It is a shame that an affair that took place eight years ago should all of a sudden be raised now," Olmert said in a statement. "In recent years, the more that I advanced in public office, the more I faced slander, attacks and accusations, which were all proven to be unfounded."

"Now, this affair has been raised, and I am certain that in the end it will be shown that the attorney-general was mistaken in judgment and in his decision."

The indictment alleges Olmert was involved in a financial cover up aimed at hiding illegal contributions received by the Likud in its 1988 campaign. "So there will be no doubts, I want to make clear that I gave no advice, direction, and didn't initiate anything related to covering up receipts on contributions to the Likud," Olmert said. "I have no doubt that this will become clear soon, once the facts come out."

"Over the years I raised substantial sums of money for the Likud, always being careful to do this within the law."

Local council head stabbed during argument

GANEI Tikva local council head Avishai Levin was stabbed yesterday evening and seriously hurt during an argument with a local man at the council building over housing. After he told the man he could not help him, he was stabbed in the neck, chest, and legs. He was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, where he was reported in moderate to serious condition.

Levin's assailant, a homeless man, fled by car with another man, but was later apprehended by police at Petah Tikva's Hasharon Hospital.

Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi sadly announces the death of

RACHEL GLASS

and offers deepest sympathy to Lila and family.

The funeral will take place today, June 12, at 5:30 p.m., at Kfar Hanassi.

Report: Assad was assassination target

DOUGLAS DAVIS
LONDON

SYRIAN President Hafez Assad was the intended target of a bomb attack on May 6 along the route he was expected to have taken to an annual ceremony commemorating nationalists executed by the Ottoman Empire in the last century.

In the end, however, Assad did not attend the ceremony. But Middle East sources in London told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that a car bomb which exploded in the city of Latakia was likely to have been directed at him.

Latakia is a stronghold of Assad's minority Alawite sect and the Syrian leader is reported to have stayed there for most of the past month.

According to a report in the London *Financial Times* yesterday, Syrian security forces have rounded up about 600 people - almost entirely among the ethnic Turkish Turkmen community in Syria - since the blast.

Syrian forces later said the Latakia explosion had been caused by a cooking gas cylinder, but the Saudi-owned daily *Asharq al-Awsat* quoted informed sources as saying the bombing had been carried out by "Turkish agents."

Another explosion was aimed at the Damascus apartment used by Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Damascus-based Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK, a far-left terrorist movement that operates against Turkey and is sponsored by both Syria and Iran. The *Post* has learned that Ocalan was not in the apartment at the time of the explosion.

Reports of explosions in Syria started appearing in the

Arabic-language media late last week, after the US State Department disclosed that several blasts had occurred in Syria over the past month. These reports were immediately dismissed by Damascus as "an attempt to divert world attention from what was happening in Israel."

Assad is involved in a simmering conflict-by-proxy with Turkey, purportedly based on his concern over Turkey's control of vital water sources and Ankara's military agreement with Israel.

According to sources in London, Assad "uses the PKK against Turkey just as he uses Hizbullah against Israel, so that he does not leave his own fingerprints."

In this remote-controlled campaign, the sources told the *Post*, Assad exercises full control over the PKK, which has up to eight training camps in Iran, as well as others in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

The *Post* has learned that Assad recently took the unprecedented step of allowing the PKK to train inside Syria itself, at an area in the Gota Valley near Damascus. The PKK, which is said to run extensive protection rackets among emigre Kurdish communities, particularly in Germany, is financially self-sufficient, but relies heavily on

Syria and Iran for training and logistical support. In aiding the PKK, said the source, Iran is acting as a strategic ally of Syria in support of the perceived interests of Damascus. It is also acting out of self-interest to promote aggression against Turkey, a potential rival which it regards with visceral hostility.

"Both Syria and Iran regard Turkey as a major, major enemy," the *Post* was told.

As Syria's terrorist operations appear to be expanding exponentially, a series of unattributable leaks from Amman in recent weeks suggested that a total of 40 Syrian-sponsored terrorist attacks directed against Jordanian officials and Israeli tourists have been aborted in Jordan.

The attacks, mostly by Palestinians, started soon after the October 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty, but have intensified in recent months, reportedly because Syrian anger has been aroused by what it perceives to be Jordan's attempt to expand its role in the region.

The Arabic-language *al-Hayat* quoted Jordanian sources on Monday as saying that Jordan is lobbying a number of other Arab states to use the upcoming Arab summit in Cairo to join it in "pressing Syria to clarify its stance towards Iranian policy and the question of terrorism."

Al-Hayat's Jordanian sources were quoted as saying that Syria "cannot go to the Cairo summit brandishing an olive branch in one hand and terrorism in the other."

Merom warns against breakdown of peace process

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE outgoing head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, MK Haggai Merom (Labor), warned yesterday against a deterioration of the peace process.

Calling his list "10 fears," Merom listed what he saw as the biggest dangers that could occur if the peace process deteriorates, while at the same time said he hoped none of them would transpire.

"I hope the peace process does not deteriorate, but I fear this could mean a 'new Middle East' and not the sort that has been talked about in the past," he said.

Among his fears is that the Palestinians will use the minimum of 20,000 weapons in their possession to start an armed intifada; Egypt will be turned from a peace partner into a confrontation state; ties with the US will worsen; and Syrian-Iranian ties will strengthen, leading to more Katyushas raining down on the Galilee.

Moreover, if there is ever a sense that the prospects for peace are dissipating, it would only exacerbate what a range of studies have shown is a drop in the motivation of teenagers as they are drafted into the IDF, Merom said.

Merom also offered on-peace process advice to the new Likud government. Without mentioning either Yitzhak Mordechai or Ehud Barak by name, Merom voiced concern about the impact upon the IDF top brass in the event that a senior officer becomes defense minister a relatively short time after shedding his uniform.

"I regret we did not make a law against such a possibility, as this could disturb existing relationships with the top IDF officials," he said.

He also voiced hope that some aspects of the intelligence community's reporting procedures be re-evaluated, since as it stands now, the head of the Mossad and General Security Service report directly to the premier, but the head of IDF military intelligence goes through the defense minister, even though he is also the intelligence adviser to the whole cabinet.

Merom said this was not a problem when the premier is also defense minister, but this could change when the prime minister is not defense minister.

US defends Israeli delay on Hebron pull back

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US yesterday strongly defended Israel's right to delay redeploying troops from Hebron.

"We've all got to live in the real world... The real world is there's been a democratic election (in Israel)... It is rational and reasonable to give the new prime minister, some time to form a government. And we're not going to try to hasten that pace," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.



Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror briefs the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. At his left is committee chairman Haggai Merom.

Amidror: Syria might turn aggressive if it doesn't get Golan

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SHOULD Syria conclude that it will not receive the entire Golan Heights from the new Netanyahu government, it may turn to an "aggressive policy," Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, head of the Intelligence Corps research division, warned the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

In remarks distributed by the committee to reporters, Amidror said that "if the Syrians understand that Israel is not going to give them all of the Golan, the negotiations will not continue. If the Syrians reach the conclusion that it won't happen, we will have to follow the possibility of a transition to an aggressive policy. Then our guiding assumption is how not to be surprised."

He also said he thinks Syria wanted to "drive a wedge" between Jerusalem and Washington. Amidror noted that there have been 30 inci-

dents in southern Lebanon over the last month, including 10 roadside bombs and 17 cases of sniper fire. While Operation Grapes of Wrath was designed to keep civilians out of harm's way, he noted there has been no impact upon attacks inside the security zone.

In general, he said Binyamin Netanyahu's election has been received in the Arab world, with the exception of Jordan, with "shock and disappointment." He said Jordan is "happy in its heart" about Netanyahu's victory, apparently alluding to its opposition to Palestinian statehood.

At the same time, Amidror said Jordan is realistic about the limitations of a Netanyahu victory, apparently referring to domestic opposition in Jordan to steps which

could be viewed as anti-Palestinian. Amidror, who has been hailed by right-wing critics of the Peres government as having a more sober assessment of the Palestinian intentions than his superiors, disagreed with MK Ze'ev Begin about the nullification of the Palestinian Covenant.

He suggested the argument over whether it has been legally nullified is secondary to the perception among the Arab public that it has. "There has been a political cancellation of the covenant," he said. "This is what the Arab street understands. Even if there is a legal debate, politically it has been nullified."

The appearance was Amidror's last in his current position. There have been rumors that in a civilian capacity, he could join Netanyahu's new national security council, which is slated to work out of the Prime Minister's Office.

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page 1) St.-Sgt. Shmuel Kreutero, 20, of Beersheba, suffered only light wounds.

Three other soldiers were recovering in Rebecca Steff Hospital in Safed.

Prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu said Hizbullah needed to be dealt with forcefully, and hinted he would take a tougher line once he is in command.

"We are witnessing a very harsh terrorist attack on our soldiers. We need to act forcefully and with determination. When we form our government, we will deal with it in our way," he said, following a meeting with President Ezer Weizman.

Netanyahu's remarks were reportedly carried by Hizbullah radio in Lebanon.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri held an urgent meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad on the escalating tensions in south Lebanon. Hariri reportedly fears the violence could rupture the US-brokered agreement

SHAS

(Continued from Page 1) in addition to the interior portfolio. Both ministries have huge budgets and are directly involved with the general public, making both portfolios sources of considerable clout.

During yesterday's session with Netanyahu, however, Hammer's request for the Housing Ministry was rejected. Hammer was also told that Labor and Social Affairs had been promised to Shas.

Housing is the most hotly-contested portfolio, it being also avidly sought by United Torah Judaism and Yisrael Ba'alya. There have been no significant contacts with UTJ since the beginning of the week and Yisrael Ba'alya is dissatisfied

situated very close to or alongside... civilians, it could bring us back to a situation where civilians will also be hurt in south Lebanon," Shabak told Army Radio.

He said the Hizbullah gunmen came from a civilian area and withdrew to it.

"We also know... the operation was coordinated from within a village, and that the terrorists are returning to positions in villages in south Lebanon. This is definitely a violation of the understandings," Shabak said.

Acknowledging that the IDF suffers from poor intelligence on Hizbullah, Levine said that the goal now is to take the offensive.

"We have to attack them beyond the security zone and take the initiative. We have to seek them out in every place and not let them live their lives. We also have to implement punishment and deterrent operations, so that they understand what is permissible and what is forbidden," he said.

Judy Siegel contributed to this report.

Another caller at Netanyahu's office was Likud MK Dan Meridor, who emerged saying only that he and Netanyahu discussed a wide range of issues and that a "very good government will be formed."

Another problem facing Netanyahu is a ruling last night by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair that Rafael Eitan could not be appointed internal security minister or to any other security-related post. This is due to an ongoing investigation into whether Eitan obtained confidential personal data from the IDF computer, and used it to pressure certain activists to leave the Tsomet Party.

TURKEY

(Continued from Page 1) Weizman, who will attend a UN conference on urbanization, said the largely secret Turkish-Israeli accord is not a defense pact, an assertion confirmed by Ankara.

"It is an agreement for joint exercises," Weizman said. "It is not a military accord. And this is a big difference."

Senior officials have highlighted Weizman's trip as vital to ensuring the maintenance of growing military ties with Turkey. Turkey's Foreign Ministry has confirmed that 12 Turkish military aircraft trained with the Israel Air Force last week.

Banks balking at IAI's \$650m. Turkish deal, Page 8

HUSSEINI

(Continued from Page 1) of the new ruling party. The meeting was held at Tel Aviv City Hall, Channel 1 reported.

"We met so that we could get to know each other better," said Hussein, who reportedly initiated the meeting. "For years there has been no talk [between the Palestinians and Likud]," he added.

"I hope that there will be more such meetings, with various people from the Palestinian side, and from the other side," Hussein said.

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State to appeal Dinitz's partial acquittal

EVELYN GORDON

THE state will appeal the partial acquittal of former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz, as well as the lightness of his sentence, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair announced yesterday.

Dinitz was indicted for aggravated fraud, fraud, and breach of trust for allegedly stealing some \$22,000 in agency funds by charging personal expenses to the agency. He used an agency American Express Card to make \$15,400 of these purchases, while \$6,700 were made on Dinitz's personal Syms clothing store card, the bills for which were sent to the agency.

Jerusalem District Court acquitted Dinitz of the offenses related to the American Express Card, saying it was the agency bookkeepers' job to deduct these expenditures from Dinitz's salary. However, it convicted him of fraud and breach of trust — though

not aggravated fraud — for his use of the Syms card.

Dinitz's sentence was an NIS 40,000 fine, though the state had asked for prison time. The court ruled that even though Dinitz was "one of the most senior civil servants ever to be convicted of fraud and breach of trust in Israel, if not the most senior," his distinguished public record, combined with the fact that his high status deepened the disgrace he would feel at his conviction, justified a comparatively light sentence.

Ben-Yair said he has instructed the State Attorney's Office to prepare an appeal of both the partial acquittal and the lightness of the sentence. In addition, the appeal will ask that Dinitz be convicted of aggravated fraud. The appeal will be submitted within the next few days.

The state had argued during the trial that it was not the agency bookkeepers' job to run after Dinitz: it was his obligation to submit a list of personal expenses charged to the agency card, like any other employee, so the agency could deduct the money from his salary. Because Dinitz never submitted such forms, the state argued, he knowingly misled the agency into thinking all the expenses on his American Express Card were business-related.

With regard to the sentence, the state argued that Dinitz's senior position mandated a stiff sentence, both because executive authority entails greater responsibility and because of the damage caused to the agency's name by its chief executive's crimes. Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that Dinitz's own appeal against his sentence was nearly complete and would be filed this week.



The driver of this car, which had its rear end crushed by the truck, escaped with only light injuries. The accident occurred on Jerusalem's Herzl Boulevard. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Jewish Agency unit overspent budget by 100%

EVELYN GORDON

THE Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department overspent its budget for new offices by almost 100 percent, or NIS 395,000, according to the agency comptroller's annual report.

Comptroller Ehud Haviv, in his first report, found that gross mismanagement by numerous bodies led to the overspending. For instance, two different agency departments each hired an architect to plan the project. No pricing was done to substantiate the estimate of the project's cost, and the department accepted bids for the planning which were greater than its budget for this item.

The tender committee hired a certain contractor to implement the project on the basis of what seemed to be a low bid, without even noticing that the low figure related only to the electrical work. This contractor's bid for the entire project was more than the allotted budget of NIS 420,000.

Furthermore, the contractor made numerous costly changes during construction, which were

approved by various agency officials who had no authority to do so.

As a result of the comptroller's report, the agency fired the director of the Building and Maintenance Division, who was the chief culprit.

Other findings of the report are: The agency spent \$410,000 on a project to improve education in Dimona which appears to have had no "lasting effect" on the level of education there. Haviv said this was largely because so many mistakes were made in setting up and running the project. The program, prepared by Ben-Gurion University, was not based on any diagnostic work, nor was it ever appraised by professionals before being approved. The proposal was accepted without either a timetable or a multi-year budget, and salaries were paid regardless of whether any of the project's stages had been implemented or not.

The agency, though the main financial backer of the program,

was a minority on the steering committee overseeing it, and the project coordinator was not obligated to maintain contact with it. Furthermore, a final report on the project was presented 30 months late, making this important evaluational tool virtually useless.

Haviv presented 14 recommendations to ensure that similar failings do not occur in other projects. Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said he adopted all of them and circulated them to the departments. In 1991-92, the comptroller examined the Mitzpeh Ramon Arts Colony and found numerous problems. A follow-up investigation last year, however, showed that almost none of the faults had been corrected. Meanwhile, the program's deficit continues to grow and the student body continues to decline. The agency's transportation unit made monthly service payments for almost a year for two vehicles which had been sold, and

a third which was not in use, while erroneous reports from a credit card company as to mileage resulted in several departments being overcharged. However, all this money has since been repaid.

The comptroller also found there was no enforcement of quotas for distance traveled on company cars. In two cases, an almost-new company car was sold to a senior employee at a discount, while the agency purchased new cars for its fleet.

The comptroller, in his capacity as ombudsman, also reviewed a number of complaints from individuals. Among those found justified are: An agency emissary in eastern Europe, asked by a new immigrant to help her get money to Israel, had the immigrant's deposit of \$7,600 in the emissary's personal account. The money was supposed to be repaid, in shekels, when the immigrant reached Israel; instead, however, the emissary used the money to cover her own financial difficulties.

As a result of the comptroller's

investigation, the agency repaid the immigrant and deducted the sum from the emissary's salary. The emissary, whose performance until then had been excellent, was reprimanded and warned that any further problems would result in her being fired. The agency also forbade all its emissaries to engage in such transactions. Counselors working at agency summer camps in the CIS frequently did not get paid for months.

The comptroller received seven justified complaints on this subject, and found that many other counselors who did not complain also suffered from several months' delay in their salaries. Serious problems were found in maintenance services at several absorption centers. At one center, the maintenance company was overpaid by tens of thousands of shekels.

There also appear to be several cases of payments made for work which was not done; the comptroller has sent this matter to the police for investigation.

State appeals acquittal of police chief on corruption charges

EVELYN GORDON

THE state appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday against the acquittal of former northern district police chief Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot on charges of bribe-taking, fraud, and breach of trust.

The state also appealed Nazareth District Court's acquittal of Ganot on charges of abusing his position by making a subordinate do personal work for his family, and against the acquittal of Nazareth businessman Subhi Tanos for giving bribes.

The charge of abusing his position came because of Ganot's habit of sending one of his subordinates to chauffeur his family around, supervise the men working on his house, or watch his children — often on police time, using a police car, but sometimes after hours, with no pay.

The lower court acquitted Ganot on the grounds that this crime only refers to abuse of one's position toward the public, rather than toward one's subordinates. Furthermore, it said, it was legitimate for Ganot to ask a subordinate to help his family while he was busy on police business.

The state rejected this reasoning. An employee has as much right to protection from the abuse of his superiors as the public does, the appeal said. And since these acts also involved the misuse of police resources, the public suffered as well.

The indictment for bribery charged that Tanos, who owns a construction firm, gave Ganot several favors over the years in exchange for Ganot's assistance when needed. Tanos sent one of his employees, free of charge, to clean Ganot's house after it was painted, and to install a counter; he painted Ganot's house for NIS 2,000, when

the cost of the work was NIS 7,360; and he threw Ganot an expensive party — one caterer alone received NIS 3,000 — in honor of his appointment as head of the district.

In exchange, Ganot allegedly persuaded a subordinate not to run for a position on Nazareth's Greek Orthodox executive committee, thereby leaving the field clear for Tanos' brother; met with a delegation headed by the mayor of Eilatun, who was under police investigation for election bribery, about his case at Tanos' request; set up a special team to investigate an assault on Tanos' driver; and interfered in a police investigation against Tanos by preventing his arrest, getting the officer who had wanted to arrest him to apologize, and getting the file against him closed.

The lower court had ruled that all of these favors were low-level assistance of the type it is natural for one friend to give to another, and that denying public servants the right to accept any friendly assistance would "in large measure deprive him of the right to have friends."

It also challenged some of the facts in the indictment. For instance, it said, the interference in Tanos' investigation occurred before any of the alleged bribes had been given, and therefore could not have been in exchange for a bribe.

The state argued in its appeal that this ruling created an unacceptable public norm. Civil servants must be careful of giving and taking favors from people with whom they do business, even if there is real friendship as well, the appeal said — and in this case, there was an unacceptable tit for tat.

Panel recommends university tuition fees stay at current level

YOCHI DREAZEN

UNIVERSITY tuition will not increase outside of seasonal cost-of-living adjustments, according to a binding report issued by the Maltz Committee, appointed by Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein to evaluate the issue.

The report is a major vindication for the Education Ministry, which had repeatedly denied allegations by the National Union of Israeli Students that it intended to double tuition to NIS 15,000 per year. The dispute between student groups and the ministry climaxed with last month's student strike, during which students boycotted classes and held campus sit-ins and demonstrations.

"I think the common student will understand that the strike was for nothing," said an Education Ministry spokesperson. "Student leaders used the frightful NIS 15,000 figure as a way of attracting attention. There was never an intention to raise tuition like that."

Representatives from the National Union of Israeli Students were unavailable for comment.

The report, which is binding for five years, states:

- Tuition will be based on last year's figure of NIS 7,505. Future tuition will increase in line with

- changes in the index, but students will not have to pay any additional percentage increases.
- Students will not have to begin repaying their loans until two years after they graduate, as opposed to immediately afterwards as had been the rule previously, and will have 36 months, as opposed to 24, to do so.
- Student's registration fees will be cut almost in half, to approximately NIS 200.
- The rights of the student — such as ensuring that each lecturer reserves time to meet with students — are guaranteed for the first time.

Additionally, the committee established strict guidelines governing which services are not covered by student tuition payments, and how much the universities can charge students for them.

The committee, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Ya'acov Maltz, included students, government officials, representatives of the major universities, and representatives of the Independent Planning and Budgeting Committee in charge of allocating government subsidies to the universities. It began its deliberations in February.

Histadrut opposes privatization plans by new government

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut plans to battle the new government's intention to speed up the privatization process, which the Histadrut and labor unions fear will infringe on collective wage agreements and the work conditions of hundreds of thousands of workers.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz called a meeting of all the government corporations' labor unions next Sunday to form a united front against any privatization moves that are not coordinated with the Histadrut and workers' representatives.

Peretz held a secret meeting Monday night with the union leaders of the Israel Electric Corporation, Bezeq, TAAS-Israel Industries, the banks, the Airport Authority, El Al and IDF civilian workers to discuss the government's privatization plans.

Peretz said after the meeting "we won't let them conduct a divide-and-rule policy. We demand a detailed plan of action, which will be coordinated with us before the tenders for privatization are issued."

He said that in the wake of bitter experiences with the privatization attempts at Israel Shipyards and the Shekem during the past four years, the Histadrut will insist on a government commitment to preserve wage

agreements and workers' pension rights in privatized corporations.

The Histadrut also demands a clause ensuring the workers' right to purchase shares of the corporation that employs them.

Peretz said the Histadrut is setting up a central unit to deal with privatization, which will include a team of legal advisers and economists.

In another development, the Histadrut intends this week to finally dismiss 500 labor council workers, a move that had been delayed for several months.

Peretz said yesterday that the move, which will save the Histadrut some NIS 7 million a month, is unavoidable due to the Histadrut's large financial deficit.

The Histadrut's financial plight is such that it has not been transferring any funds to the local labor councils since January, rendering them inoperative.

A strike called by workers at Histadrut headquarters was averted at the last moment this week when the Histadrut transferred the workers' wages to their bank accounts. But the Histadrut failed to make the workers' clothing and recreation payments and asked to postpone them to next month's salaries.

High Court rejects petition on IAF cable accident

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE High Court of Justice rejected a petition by the parents of two soldiers killed in a 1992 air force training accident who have repeatedly sought prosecution of air force personnel whom they hold responsible for their sons' deaths.

Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg fell to their deaths

when a rescue helicopter's cable snapped during a drill.

The ruling, by Justice Dalia Dorner, paves the way for the air force to go ahead with its third inquiry into the affair. The IDF said the inquiry would submit its findings when it completed its work.

The IDF maintains that OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger ordered the third inquiry in order to focus on the technical side of the mishap. Two previous inquiries were inconclusive or negated each other. Both, however, recommended that no one be prosecuted.

E. J'lem scouts resuming activities

BILL HUTMAN

FOR the first time since the start of the intifada nearly nine years ago, scouts from the Arab school system in eastern Jerusalem took part in a municipality-sponsored retreat over the weekend.

More than 400 young Palestinians attended the three-day retreat at the Ein Hemed park in the Jerusalem Corridor. The event was organized and paid for by the municipality.

"We try to separate politics from education," said Jamil Abu Tuamah, in charge of the Arab public schools in Jerusalem. He said the city is "trying to reactivate the activities of the scouts," halted during the intifada, and that the youngsters and parents are

also eager to do so.

On Saturday night, Mayor Ehud Olmert met the children and their parents, and promised the city would sponsor more activities for eastern Jerusalem youngsters.

"Eastern Jerusalem residents are hungry for improved social services from the municipality, regardless of the political situation," said one city official involved in the retreat.

Arab scout leaders and parents told Olmert they are interested in similar activities being planned for the children in the future, and political issues concerning differences over Jerusalem's future were not raised, the official said.

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New Chechen violence as Yeltsin pledges stability

A CONFIDENT President Boris Yeltsin yesterday promised voters stability if he won Russia's election on Sunday, but violence in Chechnya immediately raised doubts about his pledge.

At least six people were hurt when two series of explosions rocked a motorcade of Chechen rebel delegates and international mediators as they returned from peace talks with the Russians.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, Yeltsin's main challenger in an election which could decide the fate of reforms in the new Russia, sneered at the Kremlin's efforts to bring peace in the region before the June 16 election.

The convoy was returning from talks in the neighboring region of Ingushetia which brought an agreement on Monday setting a timetable for a Russian troop pull-out and allowing for a laying down of arms by the rebels.

"We are certain that the authorities which launched the war are not in a position to solve the conflict in a peaceful way," Zyuganov told a news conference.

Despite the setback in Chechnya, Yeltsin, 65, was in confident mood as he told some 15,000 Cossack men, women and children in Novochechensk in southern Russia: "No one will ever make an attempt on your freedom."

The city, capital of the Don Cossack soldier-farmers who guarded Russia's frontiers in tsarist times, was the scene of a massacre in 1962 when Soviet troops opened fire on a civilian demonstration, killing 23 people.

Taking up a favorite campaign theme, Yeltsin said the times of communist repression were over

RICHARD BALMFORTH
- MOSCOW

and it was time for stability. "Russia was once thrown into the abyss of civil war and the curse of the civil war has hung over Russia ever since. We have had enough of it. For us electoral victory is the way to establish stability in Russia," he declared.

Yeltsin, demonstrating good humor and form after two heart attacks last year, sent young fans into a frenzy by dancing the twist at a rock concert in Rostov on Don on Monday.

With his ratings rising after blanket media cover of his campaign, Yeltsin says he is confident of winning the required 50 percent of votes to secure outright victory on June 16.

Although polls have a record of being unreliable in Russia, surveys agree neither Yeltsin nor Zyuganov will win outright on Sunday and the outcome will be decided by a run-off in July.

Forecasts published yesterday

predicted that Yeltsin would win 40 percent of the vote, compared to 31 percent for Zyuganov.

Zyuganov, 51, scornfully disputed polls that showed a huge surge in support for Yeltsin, suggesting they had been deliberately inflated for political purposes. "Ratings grow like that only in the bamboo tropics," Zyuganov said.

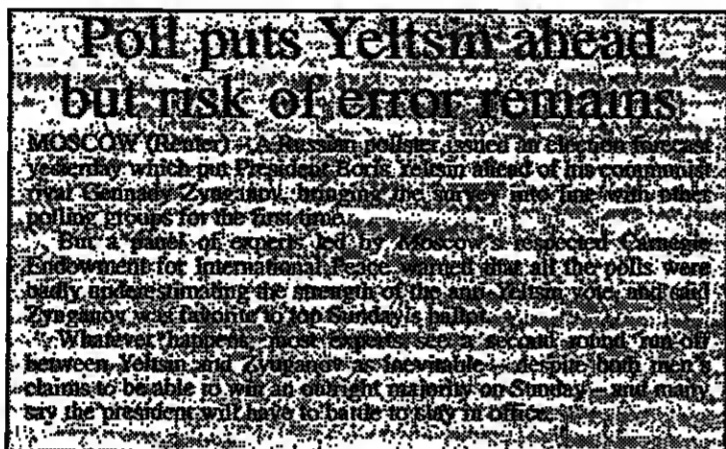
The burly former maths teacher has tapped resentment among the millions who lost out in the race to a market economy.

He looked confident as he sniped at Yeltsin's "empty promises," but offered no new ideas to counter the advantage his opponent enjoys as president.

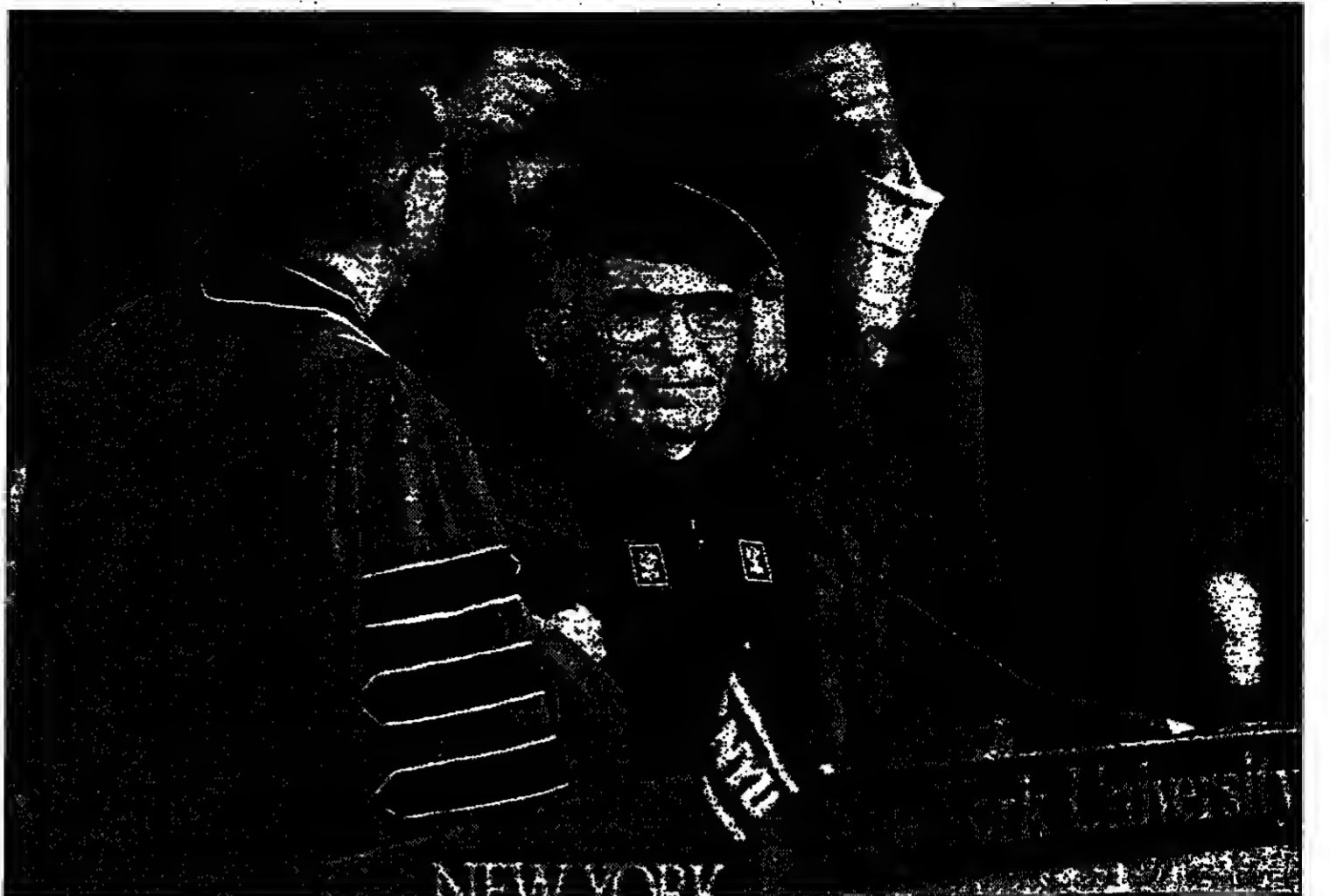
Five days before the vote, a high turnout of the 105 million electorate is expected. Voting takes place Sunday between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. across Russia's 11 time zones.

Yeltsin is believed to be able to count on support in the big cities, including Moscow and St Petersburg, but Zyuganov has strong backing in the regions.

(Reuters)



Poll puts Yeltsin ahead but risk of error remains



New York University President L. Jay Oliva, left, looks on as Philip Furmanski, dean of the university's faculty of Arts and Sciences, awards Jordan's King Hussein an honorary doctor of law degree during ceremonies at the university in New York on Monday. (AP)

Indian leader nears victory as Congress Party reels

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda ceased victory in a confidence motion yesterday even as corruption charges mounted against one of his government's pillars of political support.

The first of two days of parliamentary debate on the motion was overshadowed by allegations against former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress party.

Congress has promised to give Deve Gowda's center-left minority government the backing it needed to survive the vote of confidence expected today.

The opposition sought to capitalize on a widening fertilizer import scandal and embarrass Deve Gowda's United Front alliance, which in recent elections campaigned forcefully against Congress over alleged corruption.

One of Rao's sons has been implicated in the

\$40 million fertilizer case, which has dominated headlines for three days. Rao's son, P.V. Prabhakar Rao, has denied any involvement.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hammered away at the allegations in the fertilizer case, trying indirectly to tarnish Deve Gowda ahead of his anticipated victory by undermining his dependence on Congress.

"Urea is the symbol of corruption," BJP member and former finance minister Jaswant Singh said. "There is deep political immorality in the forming of this unholy alliance."

"The culprits should be punished and the money fully recovered," BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee said.

Deve Gowda said he, too, wanted to get to the bottom of the scandal and would present the facts to parliament today.

"There is no question of hiding the facts," Deve Gowda said. "I am equally interested in

finding the real culprits."

Deve Gowda is not a member of parliament but as prime minister was allowed to address parliament. He has six months to win a seat in the lower house, the Lok Sabha.

Despite the urea scandal, Deve Gowda's center-left government could continue to count on the support of some 332 lawmakers in the 545-member house and was all but certain to sail through the confidence vote, in which he needed only a simple majority.

The United Front alliance has some 190 members and has been promised the support of Congress, which finished a humiliating second in the general elections in April and May with 140 seats.

The BJP is now the single largest party, with 190 seats. But Vajpayee resigned in late May when it became clear he could not clinch a majority.

Four dead as Egyptian militants clash with police

CAIRO (Reuters) - Two leading Muslim militants and two Egyptian policemen were killed in separate clashes between security forces and gunmen yesterday, security sources and officials said.

They said Gamal Abdul-Hamid Abdul-Nasser, one of Egypt's most wanted militants, and Hussein Ahmed Ismail were killed in a clash with police in the town of Tima, about 340 km south of Cairo.

An Interior Ministry statement described Abdul-Nasser as the southern leader of Egypt's largest militant organization, the Gama'at al-Islamiya, which has waged a

four year campaign of violence to turn Egypt into a strict Islamic state.

The statement said he took part in 30 attacks on police and Christians, including some of the bloodiest incidents in the group's struggle against the rule of President Hosni Mubarak.

In a separate clash in the eastern city of Suez, three gunmen shot dead two policemen before fleeing, leaving a trail of violence which led eventually to a police ambush 120 km westwards in Cairo.

The Interior Ministry statement said 28-year-old Abdul-Nasser

was involved in "most of the terrorist operations" in the southern province of Assiut, the main militant stronghold in Egypt before a tough security clampdown in 1994.

It said Abdul-Nasser took part in clashes in which at least 28 people died, including 13 Christians killed in a series of shootings which marked the start of the Gama'at campaign in 1992.

He was also involved in attacks on senior policemen, bombing a mosque in Assiut, attacking a church in Dayrut, and was suspected of planning further violence, the statement added.

Bonn minister questions Jewish immigration

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's development minister has questioned why Jews should continue to be allowed to immigrate from the former Soviet Union, three weeks after the government said the policy would not be changed.

More than 45,000 Jews and relatives have been allowed to settle in Germany since 1990 - a tiny number compared to 1.5 million ethnic Germans welcomed from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Jewish immigration "is a subject which we and the other affected

countries have to discuss in the light of the figures," Carl-Dieter Spranger told the daily *Allgemeine Zeitung*, based in Mainz.

Spranger, a member of the conservative Christian Social Union in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right cabinet, said it was a problem that there was no limit on the number of Jews allowed to emigrate to Germany from Ukraine, where he said some 800,000 Jews live.

Spranger, responsible for Germany's overseas development program, said this could cause a conflict with Israel, which sees itself as the natural home of all Jews.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl agreed in 1990 to accept for humanitarian reasons an unlimited number of Jews from the for-

mer Soviet Union, a decision which Germany's Jews hoped would revive a community practically wiped out by the Holocaust.

Last month the news weekly *Der Spiegel* said Kohl was considering limiting the influx, and quoted from an alleged foreign ministry memorandum which said the reason for taking them in - persecution - had largely disappeared.

Ignatz Bubis, the leader of Germany's Jewish community, accused Spranger of stirring up panic with his mention of 800,000 Ukrainian Jews.

"The fact is that in the last seven years only 45,000 Jews including family members have come to Germany," he told Middle German Radio, adding that no more than 10,000-15,000 had come from Ukraine.

Ukraine denies selling technology to Libya

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) - Ukraine has not made nuclear technology available to Libya in violation of UN sanctions and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

"We categorically reject these accusations that Ukraine violates UN sanctions against Libya," said Yuri Serhiev, head of the Foreign Ministry's information directorate.

The *Washington Times* reported on Monday that Ukraine has established a secret "strategic cooperation" relationship with Libya, raising new US fears that nuclear technology will be transferred to Libya.

Serhiev said the United States had helped Ukraine form a system of export control with a reliable mechanism to implement sanctions.

But some Ukrainian lawmakers do not rule out the possibility that some dual-purpose technologies could have been sold to Libya.

"In principle, such sales are possible," said Volodymyr Usatenko, chief scientific consultant for a parliamentary commission on the use of nuclear power, in a telephone interview with *The Associated Press*.

"In Ukraine some committees and other government institutions have been dealing with nuclear technology for a long time, and today technology that is not being used in Ukraine, including nuclear technology, is up for sale."

Russian envoy: Iran has the right to obtain reactor

TEHRAN (AP) - Iran has the right to obtain a nuclear reactor and will not use it to make weapons, Russia's ambassador said in comments published yesterday.

The English-language *Iran News* daily quoted Sergei Tretyakov as saying in an interview that the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which Russia is building in southern Iran, "is meant for peace, not for making lethal weapons."

His comments underscored Moscow's nuclear cooperation with Tehran. Tretyakov said that since Iran was a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and allowed international inspection of its facilities, it had "the right to obtain nuclear technology, including a reactor for peaceful purposes."

Last year Russia brushed aside US objections and agreed to complete the partially built Bushehr plant, which was started by a German firm but left unfinished after the outbreak of Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Russia has agreed to sell at least one 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactor to Iran. China also has said it would sell two 300-megawatt reactors to the Islamic Republic, but no deal has been finalized.

The United States, Britain and Israel have claimed that Iran could build a nuclear weapon within years. The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency has stated that it has found no evidence to suggest that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

US teen charged in black church fires

NEW YORK (AP) - A 13-year-old white girl was charged with burning a sanctuary in North Carolina and three men were questioned about two weekend blazes in Texas, as federal investigators looked for evidence of a racist conspiracy in a string of fires at Southern black churches.

The White House said President Clinton will today visit one of the more than 30 churches that have been burned over the past 18 months. Meanwhile, officials of some burned churches complained Monday they were harassed and

intimidated by federal investigators who cast suspicion on the congregations themselves.

Though authorities said the teenage girl was not a suspect in any of the other fires, they said a conspiracy had not been ruled out.

"Given the pattern, we would be out to be looking at a larger conspiracy as one of the possible explanations of what's going on," James Johnson, assistant treasury secretary for enforcement, said in Washington.

"We are not in a position to say, one way or the other, whether or not there was an overar-

ching conspiracy. But there's clearly a very troubling pattern, and we are clearly determined to get to the bottom of it."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has been investigating 30 church fires since January 1995 and has declared five of those cases closed with arrests. The two fires in Texas would bring the total to 32.

Five people have been arrested in the earlier fires, and investigators have said they have found no evidence of a national racist conspir-

US paratrooper found guilty of murder

FORT BRAGG, N.C., June 11 (Reuters) A member of a crack paratrooper unit was found guilty in a military court yesterday of opening fire on his fellow soldiers last October, killing one and wounding 18 others. Jurors deliberated for an hour and 45 minutes

before finding Sgt. William Krentzer, 27, guilty on all counts, including a unanimous guilty verdict on the charge of premeditated murder. He was convicted of murdering a fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldier, Maj. Stephen Badger, in the sniper attack.

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Economics and the Palestinian question

THE new Likud government will have an opportunity to correct certain basic flaws that have afflicted the peace process with the Palestinians.

The core of these flaws is economic, and it may be assumed that if Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu puts ways of correcting them to President Bill Clinton, he will find a willing listener and supporter of a new line of activity.

A serious failure of the Oslo process has been in the economic field, leading to a serious deterioration of the situation in the territories.

Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat told the representatives of the donor nations in Gaza last Friday - and probably without undue exaggeration - that the area is starving starvation in the face.

This particular failure of the peace process lies not in the Oslo agreements themselves, but in the way they have been implemented. One of the main reasons why Shimon Peres, as foreign minister, decided to accept the Oslo channel was the economic paper presented to him on behalf of Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala), who later became the PA economy, trade and industry minister.

Qreia proposed that the political agreements should be implemented economically - acknowledging that Israel and the future Palestinian Authority could only be one economic unit. This approach was later formalized in the Paris (economic) protocols.

The problem was that Peres and Arafat soon drifted far away from the original principles.

Arafat was driven off by his fear of economic figureheads such as the *ahria Falastin* ("Palestine's wealthiest") - people like Abd al-Majid Shuman, the owner of the Arab Bank, or businessman Munib al-Masri, and others. Until now, they have not contributed to the Palestinian economy, because Arafat did not invite them to. Those who tried their luck anyway soon abandoned their efforts because of the endless closures of the territories.

Peres really did mean to encourage the economic development of the Palestinians. In fact, he almost became a major fund-raiser for them but he could not persuade Arafat to accept all the roles of the donor nations on accountability and transparency.

Then Peres too was stymied by

ANALYSIS PINHAS INBAR

the economically damaging tough closures forced on him by continuing terrorism.

THE MAGIC words Netanyahu could use during his meeting with Clinton in the White House are "World Bank."

A main disappointment in the current economic situation is the almost total failure to implement World Bank development programs. Returning to those programs would help Netanyahu convince Clinton he really means to continue the peace process.

A new emphasis on the economic track would have other merits, such as swinging the strong part-

nership with Jordan on to a correct course - an economic one, rather than a military or political one. King Hussein has already made it clear he has no intention of replacing the PLO in representing the Palestinians.

What Jordan constantly stresses is how ready it is to help the Palestinians. The group of *ahria Falastin* has far better relations with King Hussein than with Arafat. A chain of mostly inactive Jordanian banks already exists in the West Bank.

An expansion of the Paris protocols to include Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan is something that could be carefully examined. Unlike the Palestinian Authority, Jordan complies carefully with World Bank conditions. The incoming Israeli govern-

ment has already declared it will require of the PA a much closer adherence to the Oslo accords. It would be better to apply these declarations to the economic field first. This should convince the Palestinians, as well as the community of donor nations, that this approach is not an excuse to evade the peace process, but the means to improve it.

In the past the Palestinians rejected the economic approach as they were suspicious that it was a tactic meant to divert them from their political aspirations.

This was the basis of an initiative by former US secretary of state George Shultz who, on the eve of the intifada, suggested improving the standard of living of the Palestinians.

Now times have changed. The

PLO has entered the territories, established the Palestinian Authority, and prepared to negotiate a permanent status. Several prominent Palestinian leaders indicated that this economic approach might work.

It seems the Arab world is not prepared to grant Netanyahu a honeymoon period but is moving quickly to block his path to improving relations with Jordan at the expense of the other negotiating partners - the PA, Syria and Egypt.

To achieve any desired results from the peace process, Israel simply cannot leapfrog the Palestinians. But it can encourage them to take the path toward better economic conditions while continuing political negotiations on a separate track.

Baghdad weapons factory dismantled

UN experts and Iraqi officials are dismantling a major biological weapons factory outside Baghdad this week as part of UN sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a UN official said.

The official, from the UN Special Commission charged with dismantling Iraq's military programs, also said a 50-man team of arms experts was arriving in Baghdad this week to destroy long-range Iraqi missiles.

The team is led by Nikita Smedovic, an expert in long-range missiles, he added.

"Things are going fine with Iraq so far, unless something new comes up," said the official, who requested anonymity.

The crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq nearly six years ago include a ban on vital oil exports. For them to be lifted, Iraq must dismantle its mass-destruction weapons, account for some 600 people Kuwait says had gone missing during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and pay war reparations.

Iraq, however, reached a deal with the United Nations last month under which it will be allowed to sell \$2 billion-worth of oil for an initial period of six months to buy desperately needed food and medicine.

"The special commission has found that there can be no use for the Al-Hakam plant except to manufacture biological weapons so a decision was taken two days ago by the chairman of the commission and the Security Council to destroy the plant," said the UN official of the biological weapons factory.

"The Iraqi government and UNISCOM are carrying out the job. It is about to be finished," he said without giving further details. Sounding an optimistic note, the official said the UN Security Council might look into easing the sanctions if the present level of Iraqi cooperation in dismantling military weapons programs is to continue.

In the latest of similar past actions, Iraqi officials in March blocked UN monitors when they tried to inspect five sites around Baghdad. They were eventually allowed in, but suspect the Iraqis first removed data and other material.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posvalyuk also arrived in Baghdad this week to discuss how Russia could contribute to the oil-for-food deal Iraq signed with the United Nations on May 20.

Posvalyuk, on a Middle East tour also taking him to Iran, Syria and Jordan, declined to comment on arrival.

Under the deal, Iraq is allowed to sell \$2b.-worth of oil to raise money to buy food and medicine. Russia, France and China, all permanent members of the UN Security Council, want a gradual easing of international sanctions on Iraq. (Agencies)



Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati meets with Syrian President Hafez Assad earlier this week in Damascus. (AP)

Keeping a lid on opposition helps Tunisia bring in the money

WILLIAM J. KOLE
TUNIS

BYOND the bustle of its market places, Tunisia is a drowsy oasis. Too quiet, say critics who accuse its authoritarian regime of making money hand over fist.

President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali lures foreign investors to this North African nation by cracking down hard on the kind of Moslem militancy that scares many businessmen away from neighboring Algeria and Libya.

Human rights groups contend Ben Ali exaggerates the threat of Islamic extremists to keep a stranglehold on the presidential palace. In a country celebrating 40 years of independence, they ask, where is the opposition?

In jail mostly, or in exile. Ordinary Tunisians dare only whisper complaints about repression, looking over their shoulders for Ben Ali's omnipresent soldiers.

"For people who come in search of beaches or sex, for businessmen in quest of projects and juicy markets, Tunisia is a little paradise. For its 8.5 million inhabitants, it's certainly something else altogether," said Ahmed Manal, a dissident and former political prisoner now in exile in Paris.

Ben Ali's supporters say the president is doing what he must to ensure that extremists do not unleash the violence like that which has wracked Algeria during a four-year-old Islamic insurgency.

"There's no foolproof way to fight fanaticism, but we have to try," said Oussama Romdhani, the government's chief spokesman. "No one could attract foreigners without a sense of security and stability."

Tunisia was a bustling commercial center in the 12th century BCE. The ancient city of Carthage fell in 2nd century BCE, and the Romans ruled the area for 700 years.

It became a French protectorate in 1881 and Paris granted its long-time colony its freedom on March 20, 1956. President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali took over from Habib Bourguiba in 1987, declaring the "president-for-life" senile.

Today, it is probably North Africa's most Westernized nation, embracing a far more moderate and secular Islam - and a far more pro-West foreign policy - than either of its neighbors.

Tunisian women lead the Arab world in women's rights and hold top executive and government posts. Ben Ali has slashed government spending and freed up the economy. Yearly inflation is a relatively tame four percent and trade with Europe and the United States is at an all-time high.

"The conditions you find here, you won't find elsewhere in North Africa or in most other Arab countries," said merchant Ali Taieb, slurping tea while selling carpets in a gritty room decorated with a large portrait of the president.

"The Algerians have problems up to their chins," he said. "Tunisia works."

Tunisians, however, have plenty of their own troubles. Unemployment is the lowest in the region, yet still steep with 15 percent of the workforce idle.

Exports of textiles, crude oil, olive oil and phosphates are rising, and tourists spent \$1 billion last year. But little foreign wealth trickles down to the poor neighborhoods that fringe the capital, Tunis, or to the provinces where

farmers struggle to coax a living from the parched earth.

Human rights groups say Tunisians pay dearly for the country's push to be, as Romdhani, the government spokesman, puts it, "wonderfully boring."

The London-based group Amnesty International accused the government of imprisoning 2,000 people for daring to speak out. In Paris, reporters without Borders criticized it for expelling journalists and banning sales of French newspapers that printed critical articles.

"Various forms of harassment are used to punish, intimidate and silence political opponents, government critics, journalists and others," Amnesty said. "The circle of repression widens."

The government does not deny that wiretapping is widespread and that there are arrests, but it says dissidents in prison were preaching hate, which in Tunisia is a crime equal to terrorism.

Tunisia has not had a terrorist attack in years. Ben Ali, whose palace coup in 1987 ousted Habib Bourguiba after 32 years as president, sees that as proof that harsh rule works.

Critics say it shows Ben Ali can afford to lighten up and give others a voice.

"More than ever, that is necessary for the blossoming of Tunisians and the development of the country," said Moncef Marzouki, a human rights advocate jailed for four months after trying to run for president in 1994.

But Ben Ali, a police officer by training, seems to have no intentions of easing up. If anything, he seems emboldened since driving the main Islamic opposition movement. En Nahda (Renaissance), underground several years ago.

In March, Tunisia's chief opposition leader, Mohammed Mouda, was sentenced to 11 years in prison. The government says Mouda, president of the Movement of Democratic Socialists, was spying for Libya. The 57-year-old literature professor says he was framed.

At a sidewalk cafe in Tunis, a young man who gave his name only as Sami spoke brashly about his foreign girlfriends and grumbled about his year of military service. But when the talk touched on politics, he grew quiet and puffed on a waterpipe.

"You have to be careful," he said finally in a hoarse whisper, leaning in close. "Here, even the walls have ears." (AP)

Libya's youth see the world by satellite TV

WHEN their satellite receivers broke down, some well-to-do Libyans sailed to Malta to repair them - so strong was their addiction to foreign TV programs.

"Libyan television is so boring," said Mohammed al-Basir, 15, whose daily routine is to plant himself in front of the television after school to watch satellite programs.

To many Libyans, foreign films and songs are their windows on the outside world in an otherwise culturally and politically closed country.

Libya's young have little to do. School is often canceled because the government has not paid teachers for months. Men and women do not mix freely in Libya's traditional society.

State media broadcast little more than patriotic songs and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's speeches. The liveliest programs are children's cartoons, Arab soap operas and movies late at night.

Al-Basir and his chums say they prefer MTV and the film and song channels on the Saudi-owned Middle East Broadcasting Corporation. One winked and said he liked "the really late shows" - Turkish channels that show mild pornography.

White satellite dishes in all sizes cram Tripoli rooftops and balconies.

On Ghout el-Shaal street, nine shops sell dishes costing 700 dinars (NIS 790) to 2,000 dinars (NIS 2,270). One shopkeeper said he sells 10 a week.

To counter the spread of dishes, the state has started a cable TV company that charges 200 dinars (NIS 224) for the first year and then 15 dinars (NIS 16) annually for mainly Arabic channels. Most Libyans, whose pay averages 250 dinars (NIS 275 a month), can't afford dishes, and the government keeps tight rein on the cable channel.

"It snips what it does not like," Abdel-Hamid said. (AP)

Murder suspect is top Iranian spy

AN Iranian arrested in Germany in connection with the May 28 assassination of an opponent of Iran's Islamic regime is a high-ranking Iranian spy, a Paris-based dissident group said this week.

The group said Ahmad Djayhouni, whom German police arrested in Bonn two days after former Iranian government minister Reza Mazlouman was shot at his home near Paris, possesses "extremely confidential information."

The National Council of the Iranian Resistance (NCIR) said in a statement that Iran's leaders, "horrified by Djayhouni's arrest," were trying to contact him and prevent his extradition to France.

"This person is in possession of extremely confidential information on the methods of the death squads and on espionage, and knows the names of the regime's intelligence agents abroad," the statement said.

It said Djayhouni was in "permanent, direct contact with the regime's intelligence ministry station in Germany, situated on the third floor of the embassy in Bonn... The ministry, from this center, directs its terrorist operations in Europe," it said.

Reza Mazlouman, a former education minister under the shah, was found dead at his home near Paris May 28, killed by three bullets to the chest and head.

He was the seventh opponent of the Iranian regime to be assassinated in France since 1979, the year the shah was overthrown by Islamic militants. (AP)

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LONE WOLF: A Biography of Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky by Shmuel Katz

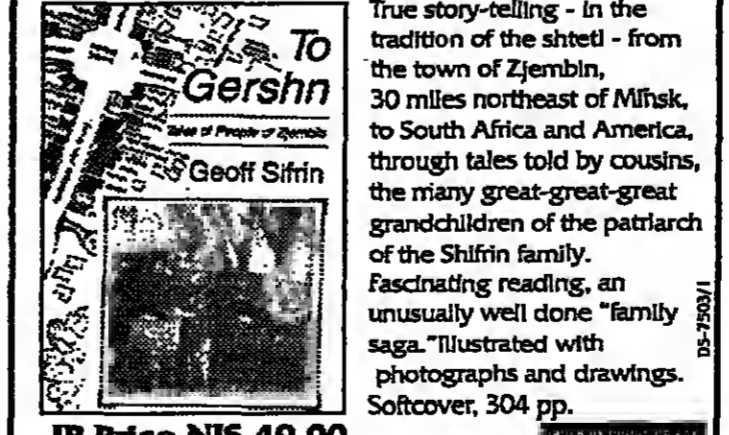
This is the long-awaited English version of the biography of one of the most dramatic figures of 20th century Jewish history - Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionism - journalist, novelist, poet, soldier, linguist and outstanding orator. Shmuel Katz has drawn on archival material, unpublished and newly translated letters, and extensive sources for this account of the center of Zionist history in the 1920's and beyond. Katz himself is known as an author and newspaper columnist; he has used newly available archival documentation in this meticulous and comprehensive biography, from Odessa, 1880 to New York, 1940. Previously published in Hebrew as JABO. Hardcover, 2 vol., 1836pp.

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Spend to save lives

ISRAEL is nothing if not unpredictable, but one thing can be forecast with utter certainty: hundreds of Israelis will be killed on the roads this summer. Many more will be injured, some crippled for life. Traffic accidents are a plague, a constantly spreading epidemic whose amelioration, let alone cure, seems nowhere in sight.

But the almost universal resignation to the inevitability of this scourge and its toll of men, women and children is decidedly unjustified. It betrays ignorance of the possible remedies, and a noxious fatalism which ill-suits a country that justly prides itself on its reverence for life. The results of such public indifference are nothing short of tragic: Israel is the only Western country in which there has not been a decline in traffic fatalities in recent years.

Of course, there will always be traffic accidents. It is the unavoidable price the inhabitants of this century pay for the pursuit of speed and mobility. But the slaughter can and must be reduced, and the public will have to do much more than it is now doing to force the government to act.

Last week, head of the police traffic division Udi Efrat said that the government had not implemented a single recommendation made by the police to reduce traffic accidents. Nor has it done a thing about the myriad proposals, suggestions and conclusions submitted by private foundations, committees and citizens' groups.

In fact, the traffic safety administration at the Transport Ministry, now in existence for 15 years, has done little more than initiate advertising campaigns of dubious value to educate the public on road hazards. As State Comptroller Miriam Ben Porat put it in this year's report, the government has failed the people in this area.

Not that public education is superfluous. But there is no comparison between eminently forgettable advertising slogans, or even thorough courses about safety, and the installation of controls, electronic monitoring devices and the strict enforcement of the law.

The most impressive suggestions in this direction have been made by Metuna, a non-profit association, which has submitted a program to reduce traffic accidents - now averaging 550 a year - to 200 a year by 2000.

Metuna has even implemented one of its suggestions. Using an infra-red device which can instantaneously take and develop pictures of passing cars and measure their speed, it has instituted a program to reduce accidents in urban areas. The device "catches" drivers on their way into towns, where many tend to ignore

the change in the speed limit from highway to built-up areas. It is in urban areas that 50 percent of fatal accidents occur.

A camera snaps a speeding or tailgating car, and 200 meters down the road, the driver is stopped by a traffic policeman accompanied by a technician who shows the driver the snapshot of his transgression. The driver is then lectured on the danger of his conduct, and issued a "ticket" on the spot. He need not go to court. He can pay the fine at the post office.

It all sounds very simple, but the incontrovertible fact is that it works. Spectacularly. In Netanya, where a statistical study of the program began in March, serious accidents have been reduced by 45 percent in three months. This is in stark contrast to other towns, used as "controls" for the experiment, where no program has been instituted and where the number of casualties has risen substantially. These results have been achieved with but one policeman at each station, for an eight-hour shift.

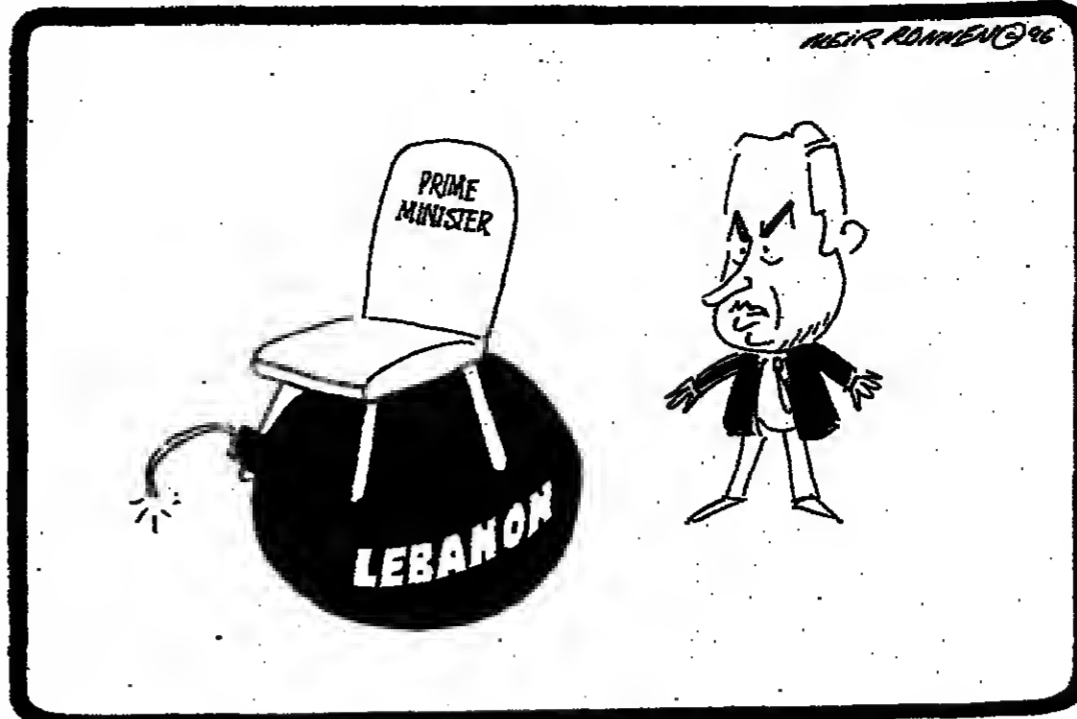
To his credit, new Safety Administrator Shalom Ben Moshe has visited the Metuna monitors, now installed in Kfar Sava and Petah Tikva as well as Netanya, and expressed interest in using them throughout the country.

Nor has Metuna restricted its suggestions to installing these monitors. Aware of the fact that the most lethal cause of traffic accidents is speed, the association insists that the speed limit be reduced to 90 kph. It also wants breath testing at night to nail drunk drivers and the restoration of night curfew for teenage drivers.

The need for other provisions is self-evident. Standards of vehicular road-worthiness must be enforced. Truck drivers, who cause a disproportionate number of accidents, must adhere to an 80 kph speed limit, never work more than a nine-hour day, and be forced to take rest periods. Dangerous drivers, convicted of serious traffic infractions, must be kept off the roads.

Roads must have effective barriers and lighting. Pedestrians should be protected by the reduction of speed limits to 20-30 kph in dangerous cross-walk areas, bumps in the street which would force the traffic to slow down, and clear, well-painted signs and warnings must all be installed.

Above all, there must be effective enforcement of traffic laws, particularly speed limits. This means substantial expenditures and more traffic police. But even the most tightfisted legislator must realize that the goal of reducing the toll from more than 550 annual deaths to 200 justifies much larger expenditures than any proposed program may demand.



Incitement or dialogue?

THIS week's loss of life in southern Lebanon reminds us that Syria is still trying to stymie the setting up of the international committee meant to supervise the understanding reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath, according to which civilian areas are out of bounds in clashes between Hizbullah and the IDF and its allies.

The committee is to include representatives from the countries that contributed to the understanding - the US, France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria. But 50 days after the decision to set up the committee, Syria's insistence on being recognized as neutral in any tussle between Israel and Lebanon despite its retention of 30,000 soldiers in Lebanon has effectively paralyzed the committee in advance.

The committee could hardly restore peace in southern Lebanon. But this peripheral bit of negotiation highlights Syrian tactics ever since Israeli-Syrian negotiations began after the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Syria prevented serious negotiations under the Shamir government, blocked them under Rabin, and obstructed any progress toward a settlement during Peres's government, despite Peres's declaration that the Golan was Syrian territory. Five whole years of talks left a question mark hovering over the sincerity of Assad's commitment to the "peace process" (a doubt reinforced by the outgoing head of the Mossad).

Yet Assad's long undermining of the negotiations with Israel

didn't prevent him from inviting Egypt's leader and the heir to the Saudi throne to a meeting in Damascus last week for the opening salvo in a campaign against Biyamin Netanyahu's still-unformed government, on the pretext that it threatens the peace process.

In Damascus President

MOSHE ZAK

Egypt can't have it both ways

Mubarak was requested to convene an Arab summit conference in Cairo - and, indeed, Arab leaders are meeting next week-end to discuss the "dangers" heralded by the policies of a Netanyahu government.

Only last week Mubarak invited Netanyahu to Cairo at the end of this month for a joint discussion on the future of the peace process. But the Arab summit he is convening betrays his intention to hold any kind of serious discussion. It seems he would rather flex Arab muscles in Netanyahu's face.

its position as leader of the region. Less well known is Mubarak's preference that Israel buy gas from Egypt rather than Qatar - which is why Egypt joined last year's Syrian-Saudi initiative in Alexandria calling on the Gulf states not to normalize relations with Israel.

Egypt's own treaty with Israel is, apparently, no bar to its promoting an atmosphere of Arab anti-Israel feeling. The aim? To firm up an Arab solidarity Mubarak hopes will restore Egypt to the peak of the Arab pyramid.

Israel, for its part, does not object to Egyptian leadership of the Arab world. On the contrary: It feels Egypt deserves the honor for being the first Arab country to sign a treaty with Israel.

But this feeling only goes so far; if Egypt is pursuing a position of leadership by flying the flag of opposition to Israel, it can hardly expect any Israeli government to turn the other cheek.

Israel must show itself open to serious dialogue with Egypt on all the region's problems. But this obligation to openness applies no less to Egypt.

So if Mubarak has invited Netanyahu to Cairo at the end of this month simply to convey the ultimatum on a Palestinian state and Jerusalem that will issue from the upcoming Arab summit, why should Netanyahu bother going to Cairo at all?

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Bon appetit

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

IN the northern Ukraine they are growing fruit and vegetables and animal fodder on land far too highly contaminated by radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl disaster 10 years ago to be suitable for food production. Their own minister of agriculture admits this is so, but says the only other choice is starvation.

There's also a lot of land in Belarus and in the Baltic states such as Estonia with a similar, albeit lesser, problem.

It came as quite a shock to me, therefore, to see the delis and specialty shops catering especially to the million Israelis who immigrated from those places doing a brisk business selling products from those very areas.

Everything from eggplant and vegetable pates to jams, fruit preserves and biscuits from the Ukraine may be found on their shelves.

And other shops - or even other sections of the same shops - are selling milk and meat and fish products from Estonia and the surrounding areas.

Surprisingly, although I made three requests for information regarding the volume and type of trade Israel does in food products from these areas, the Ministry of Industry and Trade never saw fit to respond, although their spokesperson's assistant always promised to "get back" to me.

It seems that no one at the ministry had ever considered the implications of doing trade with these countries - but then, that's not their job. They are there to make trade agreements, and to see that they work.

But this is not true of the Ministry of Health, which is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the food offered to us in our shops is safe to consume.

Still, it didn't really surprise me when the assistant to that ministry's spokesperson chose first to relate to my dreadful gaffe in having asked to speak with the "spokesman." Priorities, after all, are priorities.

After informing me sternly that the Health Ministry has a spokeswoman, the assistant told me that she was unavailable. When I told

Some food imports sold in local delis could be more than a little harmful to your health

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE PRICE OF DEFEAT

Sir, - Following the results of the elections, I am sure that there will be many Labor supporters who will criticize Shimon Peres. I will not be among them.

Mr. Peres's government has made many changes as the result of his peace agreements with the Palestinians and Arab states. He proposes many more. Although I personally feel they were correct and support these policies, I think the time had come for him to ask the electorate for their opinion by calling for a election. The results have shown that he does not have the overwhelming support to carry on with his policies. Possibly, had his campaign been more effective, the results could have been different, but it is clear that it would still only have been a percentage or two difference. I believe for such major changes, he should have much more support to justify continuing with his plans.

WORTH A TRY

Sir, - I was delighted by Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu's victory and gratified that religious Jews finally have their rightful portion of political representation. This is a Jewish country and I can have no fear of a Jew being a Jew. Neither do I have a fear of peace nor of its principles or of its processes. However, it seem stop me that the "peace process" must be the initiated and best continued, not by whirlwind tours of graud meo around the globe, nor by their acolytes closeted with academics, but by taking care of what needs to be done right here at home. Our first order of business to achieve peace is

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

Sir, - The writers of the three letters of May 23, criticizing the May 17 advert, "Don't vote for Peres," by Joseph Ehrlich, would have been more consistent and their opposition to non-Israeli interference in our elections would have carried more weight if they had also included the blatant interference by

PICKPOCKETS IN JERUSALEM

Sir, - Felix Weber, in his letter of May 26, complains of the arrest of "alleged Palestinian security officials who ... operate in Jerusalem." He further states that: "Meanwhile, thieves and pickpockets parade up and down the Via Dolorosa ... carrying out their criminal acts - the police know it, but are too busy with more urgent matters, I guess, such as cracking down on Palestinian security officials."

I cannot understand Weber's objection to the Israeli police doing their job in arresting extortionists, kidnapers and torturers who prey on the Moslem and Christian residents of the Old City. I can, however, comment on the pickpocket situation.

As a member of Yasham, the volunteer police unit operating out of the Kishle police station, I have taken part in numerous "plain-clothes" operations along the Via Dolorosa. Working with detectives, we have arrested a number of these criminals during the past few years. Unfortunately, despite disguises, we are too easily recognized by the criminals and merchants along the way and have to be replaced by new faces.

If Mr. Weber is a truly concerned Israeli citizen under the age of 65, he should join Yasham and ask to serve in the tourist squad stationed at Kishle.

DAVID M. STAR, Sergeant-Major, Yasham, Ma'aleh Adumim.

UNEXPLODED SHELL

Sir, - Page 1 of The Jerusalem Post on May 20 featured a beautiful photo of Ms. Zeinab Kassem of the South Lebanese village of Zawar Asharkiye holding a "155 mm. unexploded shell" fired by Israel.

In response to my inquiry, the IDF told me that on May 19, the shells which were fired had no explosives in them and that the pictured shell was of those which spread smoke. The "shelling" was in retaliation for a Hizbullah attack in which an Israeli soldier was wounded.

JOSEPH LERNER, Jerusalem.

Dodging Damocles's sword

THE election results signify not only a change of leadership but portend the overturning of the parliamentary regime. The current situation may be the chronicle of a constitutional death foretold.

The drastic reduction in strength of the two major parties - from 76 to 66 seats - and the filling of the gap with fragmented sectoral interest groups threatens the very basis of parliamentary democracy, creating fertile ground for anarchy or dictatorship.

Self-soothing murmurs that it's all part of the democratic process are pure "obstructionism."

This dangerous trend is the result of electoral reform, which introduced direct elections for prime minister without any of the "wrappings" of constitutional checks and balances of presidential systems.

To change the electoral system, a special Knesset majority is required - 61 voting members. In the 14th Knesset, Likud and Labor could still change the system. And there's the rub: In the 15th Knesset, they may no longer hold, even in conjunction; the reins of power. In fact, they may hold fewer than 61 seats between them.

The sectoral parties are, by definition, not going to be movers and shakers in any re-reforming of the electoral system, since they are the winners under it as is - indeed, the religious parties have included the right to veto a change in the electoral law amongst their coalition demands.

But for the two major parties, reform is a condition of survival. This shared survival interest of the two major parties serves to emphasize and magnify the disadvantages of a coalition system which throws the centrist parties into the hands of sectoral interest groups.

Today, in a coalition government, Likud or Labor won't be dealing with a junior sectoral partner as in the past, but with sectoral partners of almost equal strength.

If the ill-fated electoral reform had any valid purpose, it was to release a directly-elected prime minister from the chains of pre-election obligations to sectoral parties. Netanyahu should oow avail himself of that new freedom and form a centrist coalition of Likud and Labor alone.

FRANCES RADAY

Likud and Labor are modernist parties based on secular, market philosophies, interested in international political discourse and economic exchange. They cannot regard an isolated Israel with equanimity. It is unquestionable that maintenance of the present level of international contact is closely tied to the peace process.

A centrist coalition of Likud and Labor alone is a shared survival interest for the two parties - and for Israeli democracy

The price Likud and Labor is each prepared to pay to maintain that contact through the peace process may be different ideologically, but the goal is shared.

Even their freedom to act differently is limited: Labor, limited by public uncertainty, has promised to condition withdrawal on a referendum; the Likud, limited by the international dynamics of the peace process, has promised to continue on the basis of Oslo. They are on different sides of common ground.

The religious nationalist bloc, in contrast, is isolationist, eyes to Jerusalem and backs to Tel Aviv. Its emphasis is on preserving the difference of Jewishness and the rejection of universalism.

The stock market's reaction to the election results and the industrialists' call for a national unity government are an economic barometer of the undesirable implications of isolationism.

A LIKUD-Labor coalition would exclude non-Zionist parties, whose members do not serve in the army, from governmental power. In deciding who will risk their lives for the country, a democratic state stretches its reliance on social consensus to the limit. It is one of society's most "tragic choices." Democratic societies cannot stand

inequality in this choice, and so, most frequently, where the draft is not universal, the choice is made by lottery.

Surprisingly, Israeli democracy has long tolerated an inequitarian system of the draft in which young religious men are, if they so wish, effectively exempted from military service. In a coalition with the non-Zionist parties, nearly one quarter of coalition decision-making power on questions of war and peace would go to members of United Torah Judaism and Shas, who refuse to participate in the army. This is intolerable for Israeli democracy.

A Likud-Labor coalition could complete the constitutional human rights legislation supported by leading members of each in the last Knesset. The basis of 20th-century democracies has been founded on protecting pluralism and individual autonomy through the guarantee of human dignity, equality, freedom of speech and conscience. This guarantee, implemented by the review power of the courts, protects individuals or groups against the majoritarian victimization possible in parliamentary rule, where "the many may err as grossly as the few."

On the basis of constitutional human rights, Jews can pursue their right to equality in non-Jewish societies and non-Jews to equality in a Jewish state; women have gained the right to equal participation and opportunity; freedom of expression and the right of the public to be informed have flourished; and, not least, the right to freedom of religion has been guaranteed as a civil right.

This edifice is threatened by a coalition with the religious nationalist bloc, which openly calls for measures that will suppress the human rights of the other 81% of the voting public, and for curtailing the power of the courts.

If Israeli democracy wishes to preserve itself, Likud and Labor must combine to achieve electoral reform and form a government that represents mainstream constitutional policy rather than undermining it. This may be the last chance.

The writer is a professor of law at the Hebrew University. She acts as counsel in human rights cases.

The writer contributes a column on the environment to The Jerusalem Post.

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American Polish-Jewish relations: Still poles apart

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

In this nation of immigrants that celebrates ethnic diversity, Americans with one hyphenated identity are often inclined to build bridges to others with hyphenated identities. And so it is that Jewish-Americans routinely meet with African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latino-Americans, Polish-Americans, and so on.

But the Jewish bridge to Polish-Americans is sagging these days, as the weight of history and stinging stereotypes continue to take their toll.

The Poles recall prime minister Yitzhak Shamir once said they "suck [in] antisemitism with their mothers' milk." And the Jews got an uncomfortable reminder of that sentiment recently when the head of the Polish American Congress wrote a letter that carried what the American Jewish Committee called "the unmistakable ring of old-style antisemitism."

Last month, the committee quit its 17-year association with the Chicago-based congress. The two groups had been the sponsors of the National Polish American-Jewish American Council, which was intended to improve relations between the two communities.

The congress' leader, Edward Moskal, complained to Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, that Warsaw was too submissive toward the Jews. Among his numerous grievances, made public last month, were what he called the "preferential treatment" given Jews seeking the restitution of their property in Poland, limits on commercial development near Auschwitz, and

the Polish government's apology on the anniversary of the post-war Kielce pogrom.

The American Jewish Committee said it was not objecting to Moskal's complaints but to his letter's "highly bigoted tenor and style."

Kwasniewski dismissed Moskal's complaints, adding: "There should be no place for harmful stereotypes, xenophobia, religious, racial or ethnic prejudices."

What was striking, observers said, was that from Kwasniewski down, Poles rushed to condemn Moskal's statement.

A Polish-American newspaper, the *Eagle*, appeared to speak for many of the community's leaders when it called the remarks "repugnant" and said they did not reflect the overall Polish-American attitude.

"Sometimes it takes a controversy to mobilize people on the side of accommodation," said George Szabad, co-chair of the National Polish American-Jewish American Council and an official of the American Jewish Committee. "It's probably just as well that people have to stand up and be counted."

The Poles and the Jews are to meet later this month to assess their relationship.

When the two communities began building their bridge in the late 1970s, "it was of great value," said Tadeusz Gromada, the executive director of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences, a national organization of academics, scientists, writers and artists. "We were meeting face to face with Jewish Americans, and we were forming



friendships. Before, we had hardly any direct contacts. "The fact is that we found out that we had a lot of things in common and believe in many things that are important for American pluralistic society," Gromada said in New York. For instance, he said, like the Jews, Polish

Americans don't want to become completely assimilated.

The Polish American community is slightly larger than the Jewish community. Nearly one million live in Chicago, which boasts more people of Polish descent than any city other than Warsaw.

When the group started, "the enmity was very strong on both sides," Szabad said. "American Jews look upon Poland as a cemetery."

The Americans have other bridges that are a higher priority, and do not start with such a deficit. Although black-Jewish relations are currently strained, the two groups shared a moment of glorious cooperation at the height of the American civil rights movement 30 years ago. With Asian-Americans, Jews share a reverence for family and scholarship.

"The only thing that makes the Polish Jewish bridge so important is the combination of the sense of history and the fact that it is such a love-hate relationship," Szabad said. "There is no such thing as Jewish history without Poland or Polish history without Jews."

The joint council was not intended to be a historical institute or to focus overseas. "But the reality is that you cannot deal with contemporary Polish-American and Jewish-American relations without dealing with the history of those relations," said the council's co-chair, Reverend John Pawlikowski of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. "This history still conditions how people react in current times."

"We don't expect to ever agree even on the facts," Szabad said. However, he and Pawlikowski

noted that the council has been effective in lessening the tensions between the two communities by providing a forum where issues can be discussed civilly.

Each side also has aided the other on cultural matters and in political affairs. For instance, American Jews actively supported Poland's nascent Solidarity movement and backed Warsaw's position in its negotiations with Germany on their permanent border.

"One of our basic principles is that we don't stereotype and that we cannot blame the community for statements of individuals," Szabad said. "There are plenty of trouble-makers on the Jewish side."

Moskal's statement reinforced Jewish stereotypes about Poles, numerous people noted. But, they said, he also made a point - however badly - that resonated with Poles who believe that Jews have disregarded Poland's losses during World War II.

The restitution of Jewish property in Poland is a highly charged issue in which progress so far has been limited to the return of communal properties. The Polish American community recently was distressed by the statement of the World Jewish Congress that it will "humiliate" Poland unless Warsaw accepts its demands for property restitution. Gromada said, adding that all legitimate claims should be settled justly.

"In each community we have our extremists," Gromada said. "We have our people who don't seem to want to have good relations and don't see the value of having an understanding and building coalitions that would advance our mutual interests."

Curitiba, 'world's most innovative city'

At the start of the school year in Curitiba, Brazil, Cristiano Pereira Pinheiro, a winsome seven-year-old, traded eight pounds of recyclable garbage for a packet of new notebooks.

Each week, he and his two older brothers, the sons of a maid and a steelworker, exchange trash for two pounds of protein-rich beans or fresh fruit. At Easter, they get chocolate eggs, and then at Christmas, a cake for the family.

Garbage is not the only thing recycled here. Old wooden utility posts are reused in office buildings, bridges and public squares. Retired buses become mobile classrooms for adult education. A gunpowder depot converts into a theater-in-the-round.

"Virtually everything has more than one use," said Mayor Rafael Greca. De Macedo, whose airy office overlooking a park is made of old telephone poles and glass.

"It's just a matter of figuring out how to reuse things and then teaching people how to do it."

Curitiba has done just that - and much more. As the world's mayors and urban planners assembled this week in Istanbul, Turkey, for the start of a 10-day UN summit on mushrooming urban problems, this little-known city 200 miles southwest of Sao Paulo in southeast Brazil is being heralded as the place that has many of the solutions.

"It's the most innovative city in the world," said Wally N'Dow of Gambia, chairman of the Habitat II summit.

Since young maverick architects and engineers took over City Hall in the 1970s, Curitiba has tried new ways to tackle urban ills. It is still a Third World city, with at least 10 percent of its 1.6 million people living in slums of corrugated tin-and-wood shanties. And its innovations - from "trade villages" to schoolbooks written by the mayor - were made very gradually.

But the city now stands as a model for urban planners, and mayors from around the world have visited Curitiba to learn from its experiments.

The rush to the cities has been

Does this Brazilian town provide a solution to the world's population problems?

one of the great global trends of the 20th century. Forty years ago, 70 cities had more than one million people. Today there are more than 200, including 10 in Brazil. And in 15 years, the UN estimates, there will be 500, with 33 having populations of more than 10 million.

"The 21st century will be the first urban century," N'Dow said, "with more than half the world's population living in cities. But whether in big countries such as the United States or small countries like mine, we are all woefully unprepared."

In an effort to share possible solutions, Habitat II has identified 227 innovative practices in cities from Bogota to Bangkok, Jakarta, Indonesia. It is cited for uniting the public and private sectors in a housing development project. Havana, Cuba, is mentioned for the way it has provided housing, roads, clean water and electricity to the poor.

In the US, Habitat's premier example is Chattanooga, Tennessee, which in 1969 was considered to be the most-polluted American city, rapidly losing people and jobs. Under the management of David Crockett, descendant of the frontiersman, Chattanooga has done an about-face, making major strides in such areas as pollution control, neighborhood revitalization and public education.

Elsewhere in Brazil, Sao Paulo, whose 18 million residents make it the world's third-largest metropolis, is a dirty, disorienting mega-city. Rampant crime plagues Rio de Janeiro, where up to a third of the 5.5 million residents live in shanties. Brasilia, the capital, is a sterile planned city of 1.8 million whose outdated 1960s architecture gives it an eerie feel.

The accomplishments of Curitiba have come despite limited means. For a city its size, its budget is modest: \$1 billion a

year, the same as that of Lausanne, Switzerland, which has one-tenth the population.

But Curitiba is making the most of what it has. Its "garbage that is not garbage" program made it the world's recycling capital. More than 70 percent of its trash is recycled - compared to 10 percent in the United States. Paper recycling in Curitiba saves 1,200 trees a day, city planners estimate.

The program in turn helps the poor. The city last year exchanged almost 2 million pounds of food, 348,000 Easter eggs and 26,000 Christmas cakes for recyclable trash. Hundreds of quilts for the needy were stuffed with crushed Styrofoam. Cristiano was one of 25,000 poor children who received school supplies.

The program also keeps the town clean, cuts diseases spread by rat urine and avoids the persistent floods that used to occur when the town's population threw their garbage into rivers.

Curitiba also is taking government to the people. "Citizenship Streets" are colorful covered avenues of government offices and shops where residents can pay utility bills, get a marriage license or file a police report. They can also get a haircut, buy groceries or work out. Shop rents pay most of the costs.

The streets also have 600-seat open theaters, night courts and classrooms that offer vocational training for \$1 a course.

The first Citizenship Street opened last year; six more are planned by early 1997. They reflect one of the keys to Curitiba's success: integration. Each Citizenship Street, for example, is linked directly to one of the city's seven transportation hubs.

The transport centers are near health facilities, of which Curitiba has the most per capita in Brazil - all open 24 hours a day. The clin-

ics and environmental programs have cut infant mortality in half over the past decade; it is now only one-third of the national average of more than 50 deaths per 1,000 births.

Curitiba has not overlooked its schools. Cristiano, a second-grader, uses one of the four-volume *Lessons from Curitiba* textbooks written by the mayor and local teachers.

Numbers are taught using local flora and fauna. The poem in a reading lesson explains that emeralds are worth a lot and diamonds much more, but even more valuable is glass because it can be recycled again and again. Math problems probe how much of the local environment can be saved through various kinds of recycling.

"We're trying to create a whole new set of attitudes and a sense of involvement," Mayor Greca said. Students pay for their books in recyclable trash; each book itself is recycled to the next year's students.

In 1991, Curitiba built the Free University for the Environment - from old utility posts - next to a former quarry, now converted into a lake.

Short courses on how to make better use of the environment are tailored for homemakers, contractors and merchants. Taxi drivers are now required to take a course in order to get an operator's license.

"A lot of these ideas came from a game started 20 years ago when we were at the university," said Mauro Magnabosco, president of the Curitiba Institute for Urban Planning and Research. "We looked at what we needed and how we could get it."

Shortly before the mayors' meeting in Istanbul, Greca shared Curitiba's working philosophy.

"The city is the best human invention," he said. "But to make it work, a city's society must be understood as a train that will go no faster than its slowest wagon or car."

"City governments exist to push the slowest car so the whole train will go faster."

(Los Angeles Times)

Achieving the right qualities

LAST month, this column received a letter from a mother-to-be asking for advice. We offered some and turned to you, our readers, for your suggestions. With this week's column, we begin printing your wonderful words of wisdom. Thanks to all who submitted replies.

Dear Mother-To-Be,

As the mother of four young children, I can attest to the fact that patience, self-assurance and calm are among the most important qualities a parent should strive to achieve. With these qualities as tools, we aim to raise and educate our child "according to his way" (Proverbs 22:6; Hayei Adam 66:1) so that the values which we try to instill in him become internalized.

The difficulty is that we achieve these qualities only together with the actual work of child-rearing, and not before. But, with more children, come more tolerance and insight. Therefore, we must be patient and confident enough to learn from our children, and we must persevere in the wake of newfound obstacles such as the sudden absence of once-enjoyed everyday freedoms.

For, within the parent-child relationship, there exists a new kind of freedom: That is the freedom to love and give full-time and unconditionally. And this is the stuff of which the human heart should be made and the human intellect should pass on.

Lisa Haller, Jerusalem

The above two will save you much fighting and moaning later on.

Anne Rabinowitz
Kibbutz Nir David

To the Expectant Mom,

Here is some advice from a new mother of about a year now. I agree with the advice given by Ruth Mason's midwife. Here is some advice that worked for me and my baby, and all the babies I took care of.

- Never let the baby cry. I saw the crying of baby as a way of telling me something was not okay. I took her in my arms or carried her around in the baby carrier.
- Don't separate from your baby for the first year or so, if possible, or make sure you have somebody close to you who is a good, warm caretaker.
- Breast-feed your baby as long as he/she wants.

Last but not least: Follow your heart and intuition. I guarantee you, the baby "pays" you back with all the love it got from you.

P. Barzani, midwife-assistant

Dear Mother-To-Be:

My best advice to a new mother is not to take the advice of others. Rely on your own instincts. Relax. You have to be firm but give in at appropriate times. Be consistent, as well as know when to compromise.

If this sounds contradictory, well, it is. No one child is the same as another and you basically have to navigate on your own. You have to get to know your child and be sensitive to his/her needs. For my first child people told me to let the baby cry to sleep. It never worked. We did this for 45 minutes and it was sheer torture. When there is a problem, seek professional advice, not the neighbors.

Adinah

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THE JEWS OF THE NETHERLANDS AND ENGLAND

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Trade deficit rises to \$924m. in May

DAVID HARRIS

ISRAEL'S trade deficit stood at \$924 million last month, a 1.42 percent increase from April, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In May, imports were \$2.46 billion, while exports totaled \$1.54 billion. In the first five months of 1996, commodity imports - excluding diamonds and fuel - were \$9.81 billion, with exports at \$5.66 billion.

Imported goods in May comprised 46% raw materials, 23% diamonds and fuel, 18% machinery, equipment and investment-related vehicles and 13% consumer goods.

From February to May there was a stabilization in the number of imported consumer products, as opposed to the final six months

of last year, when there was an average monthly increase of 1.7%.

Of exports, 68% were industrial goods, 25% diamonds, 4% agricultural produce, with the remaining 2% largely consisting of computer software.

With the exception of diamonds, exported industrial products have fallen this year by a monthly 0.5% to 1.0%.

In the last third of 1995, industrial exports increased some 1% a month.

During the first four months of the year, the trade deficit grew a monthly average of 1%, whereas through 1995 the deficit rose 2.7% a month, according to the CBS.

Banks balking at IAI's \$650m. Turkish deal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Aircraft Industries' (IAI) \$650 million contract to upgrade the Turkish Air Force's fleet of Phantom F-4 jets is at risk because of the sovereign risk to local banks, a banking source said yesterday.

The transaction was concluded about eight months ago, but a delay in the signing of the final agreement is preventing its execution.

According to the deal, Israeli banks would finance the Turkish government's costs, but a preliminary agreement to enable this has yet to be reached between Israeli banks and the Turkish Army.

Banking sources in Tel Aviv

said an agreement on the range and terms of the loan does exist, but there is still no deal on total sovereign risk coverage.

In February, the Knesset Finance Committee approved the Treasury's request to grant Ankara a \$410m. loan-guarantee package to cover the banks' financing of the project, but who would cover the remaining credit risk is unknown.

In the meantime, the government, including outgoing Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and President Ezer Weizman, have tried to speed up the conclusion of

the agreement out of fear the Turkish Air Force will back out and instead sign an agreement with an American firm.

According to the five-year deal, IAI will upgrade the F-4 Phantom to the level of the IAF's Kumas-2000 fighter plane.

The upgrading will include the installation of advanced avionics systems - including a main computer, electronic warfare, armament systems and new navigation system.

To fill the contract, IAI is expected to hire several sub-contractors including Elbit, Elia, El-Op, Elisra, Astronautics, Orbit and Rafael.

'Redemption of prov. funds to persist until gov't policy clarified'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

PROVIDENT fund redemptions are expected to continue until the capital market stabilizes and economic policy is clarified, fund managers said yesterday.

In May, the public continued to capitalize on the funds' liquidity by abandoning the funds and transferring their money to savings programs, which offer relatively attractive yields.

Provident fund redemptions reached NIS 787 million in May, after totaling NIS \$77m in April and NIS 456m. in March. Since the start of the year, poor yields have led savers to cash in a total of NIS 3.1 billion.

Eli Avraham, head of Bank Leumi's provident fund division, said the drop in the rate of savings during the last few months is very worrisome and must be addressed by the new government.

The drop, he said, reflects the uncertainty prevailing on the capital market, which has reduced the attractiveness of shares and bonds.

There are also psychological factors.

"Every month it is reported that funds achieved real negative yields," Avraham said. "After numerous years of positive yields, the word negative scares investors."

"Many of them do not understand that achieving positive nom-

inal yields is also good." In the five-month period, however, training fund assets have increased NIS 9.4m.

Bank saving programs attracted about NIS 938m. since the start of the year, about one-third of the funds that were withdrawn from the provident funds.

Most of the money was deposited into index-linked plans, which accumulated NIS 1.63b. But foreign currency-linked savings programs continued to register withdrawals.

The foreign currency-linked plans registered withdrawals of NIS 696m. in the first five months of the year.

Several months ago, Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer started to work with the Treasury to try and reduce provident fund withdrawals and encourage savings.

According to the plan, investment regulations for provident funds and insurance companies would be eased so as to create additional investment routes, including in the Maof market.

In addition, there are plans to allow funds to engage in lending transactions of securities, to execute "short" transactions and also raise the funds' investments abroad.

This is intended to contribute to the funds' earnings.



UAW President Stephen Yokich (left) and Ford Executive Vice President Peter Pestillo reach across the table to shake hands during a photo session signaling the start of the 1996 contract negotiations at Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn.

Indigo's quarterly losses worse than expected

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

INDIGO, the highly celebrated but recently troubled Dutch-Israeli digital printing technology specialist, yesterday reported losses of \$21.6 million in the first quarter, worse than analysts' expectations and far higher than \$745,000 in losses in the first quarter last year.

Although the company, which recently announced a severe restructuring program that included the laying off of 240 employees, was expected to incur first-quarter losses, analysts said they exceeded their predictions.

"We expected big losses, but their size is greater than expected," said Amir Schechner, an analyst at E. Shalev Ltd., an affiliate

of Wall Street brokerage firm Oppenheimer & Co.

Beany Landa, Indigo's founder and chairman, refused to discuss the report. The company's first-quarter revenues decreased to \$28.3m. from \$42.6m. in the first quarter last year.

However, first-quarter revenues increased 30% from 1995's fourth-quarter revenues of \$21m.

The firm's restructuring plan, including a cut in staff and a decrease of some 25% in operational expenses, will result in a charge of approximately \$3.5m., Indigo's president and CEO Wayland Hicks said.

Selling, general and administrative expenses rose 21% in the quarter to \$21.2m. from \$17.6m. in the same period last year.

Indigo said this increase was the result of its restructuring plan, which has entailed allocating additional resources for its direct sales and marketing divisions with the hope that these efforts could stabilize the company's roller-coaster performance.

Analysts said long-term improvement may require the company to slash prices, which are considered high, as more companies - such as Scitex and Xerox - enter the digital printing field. One of Indigo's printing machines costs some \$500,000.

British Airways, American Airlines sign world's largest air alliance

BRITISH Airways yesterday announced a link-up with American Airlines to forge the world's largest airline alliance.

The new alliance is unlikely to affect a possible code-sharing agreement between AA and El Al, according to El Al spokesman Nachman Kliezman.

Code sharing allows one carrier to sell tickets for the other's ser-

vices on routes it does not fly. AA, which already has code-sharing pacts with a number of airlines around the world, has been negotiating with El Al for the past year.

British Airways (BA) said in a statement that the two airlines would coordinate passenger and cargo activities between Europe and the US, but they would not exchange equity stakes and would remain separate entities.

The controversial deal is almost certain to face regulatory hurdles, as it has major implications for the international airline industry and faces fierce opposition from rival airlines. Richard Branson, owner of BA's arch rival, Virgin Atlantic Airways, said he would do his utmost to stop the alliance from going ahead.

BA and American plan to introduce extensive code-sharing deals across their networks and link their frequent flyer programs.

By coordinating their networks, they will be able to offer the widest choice of routings and departure times between almost 36,000 city pairs, BA said.

HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

If the alliance is approved, analysts said it will end years of heartache for both carriers in their search for a suitable alliance on the key transatlantic market.

Transatlantic routes represent the largest intercontinental airline market in the world, with some 70 airlines competing on routes from Europe to the Americas.

The American-British Airways alliance could transform the North Atlantic market. Industry executives say it could lead to Britain agreeing to give all US airlines access to London's Heathrow Airport.

Britain and the US have been trying for the last five years to agree on an "open skies" deal to replace their 1977 Bermuda II air transport treaty, which heavily restricts which airlines can fly where between the two countries.

The main sticking points have been American Airlines' insistence on open access to Heathrow. British Airways, which has 38 percent of runway slots there,

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bezeq attacks government over Internet access: The Communications Ministry's decision to bar Bezeq from supplying Internet access on a non-subscriber basis was attacked yesterday by company director-general Yitzhak Kaul. It is "unreasonable" to prevent Bezeq from providing this service, given the fact that the telecommunications sector here and abroad is being opened up to competition. Bezeq apparently hopes that the next communications minister will cancel the decision.

A few weeks ago, the ministry halted an experiment in which Bezeq employees got access to the computer network; Bezeq had intended to expand this service, dubbed 135, to all phone users without them having to have an Internet account with a server. After examining the issue, the ministry told Bezeq it had rejected its request, which had aroused much opposition among commercial Internet suppliers.

Vatican - 15 million pilgrims to visit Israel in 2000: Vatican analysts believe as many as 15 million pilgrims will come to Israel during the year 2000, according to Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, who was reviewing his 15-month term of office. He noted that Israeli officials believe five to seven million visitors will come during the year that marks two millennia of Christianity.

Tomorrow, Tourism Minister Uzi Baram is to participate in the laying of the cornerstone for the first hotel to be built for the Nazareth 2000 project. Earlier in the day, Baram is to be made an honorary citizen of Nazareth. The hotel, the Nazareth Pilgrimage Hotel, is to be jointly owned by Rogozin, headed by Ezra Harel, and Nazareth residents Bashir Alrazek and Her Eddin Biarra. The 245-room, four-star hotel is to be built at a cost of \$22 million. It is due to be completed in 18 months.

Geotek Communications Inc. has announced that the Korean Ministry of Information and Communications awarded a consortium, in which Geotek holds a 21 percent interest, a license to operate a nationwide mobile radio system. Geotek's system, which carries voice and data transmissions, will offer digital telecommunications services to nearly two million subscribers, the company said.

Scicop, a Karmiel-based, sub-contractor for high-tech companies, has signed a production agreement with HI Sense, a company specializing in medical equipment. The \$520,000 deal is for the production of smart cards for the HI Sense Baby Sense product, a device intended to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

MCI, Intel launch Web site product: MCI Communications Corp. and computer chip maker Intel Corp said yesterday they have formed an alliance to develop and market a range of Internet products and services targeted at businesses.

The first product emerging from the alliance is networkMCI WebMaker, used to create and manage Web sites on the Internet's World Wide Web. The networkMCI WebMaker, priced below \$10,000, is available immediately and will be marketed by MCI. The package is aimed at providing a secure and inexpensive venue for businesses to sell goods and services over the Internet.

"Our technology alliance with Intel combines the power of the world's fastest and most sophisticated Internet network with robust and flexible Intel PC and Internet technologies," said Bert Roberts, MCI chairman and chief executive.

IBM to introduce online shopping service: IBM yesterday announced plans to launch an online shopping service on the Internet. IBM's World Avenue service is expected to open with about 20 "quality retailers," the firm said. Consumers will be able to purchase merchandise and choose features such as personal profiling, gift registry and accessory services. IBM will get a start-up fee of \$30,000 from vendors, a five percent commission on sales and a \$2,500 monthly maintenance charge.

Carlsberg - Bass merger talk a 'rumor': Danish brewer Carlsberg's British joint venture, Carlsberg-Tetley, yesterday described as "rumor and speculation" media reports it was negotiating a merger with British brewer group Bass. "If you want to talk to somebody about this hypothetical situation, you should talk to Carlsberg in Copenhagen," managing director Ebbe Dinesen said. In the Danish capital, Carlsberg spokeswoman Monica Rittbernd refused to comment.

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Charles Schwab	\$100	\$207	\$430
Merrill Lynch	\$577	\$1230	\$2430

Source: Telephone quotes, May 1996

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.5.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.125	4.250	4.500
Pound sterling (£100,000)	1.750	1.750	2.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)			
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.6.96)			
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8157	3.6741	3.7450
German mark	3.3423	3.2957	3.2710
French franc	2.1140	2.1025	2.110
Japanese yen (100)	4.9236	5.0940	5.14
Dutch guilder	0.8296	0.8593	0.85
Swiss franc (100)	2.995	3.0144	2.91
British pound	1.8239	1.9191	1.85
Spanish peseta	2.3546	2.6029	2.52
Scandinavian krona	0.4700	0.4925	0.47
Novosibirsk kopek	0.4948	0.5025	0.48
Danish krone	0.5477	0.5595	0.55
Finland mark	0.6529	0.7000	0.67
Canadian dollar	2.2792	2.4195	2.35
Australian dollar	2.5725	2.9140	2.82
2. African rand	0.7441	0.7392	0.87
Belgian franc (10)	1.0278	1.0444	1.01
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0344	3.0222	3.02
Italian lira (1000)	2.0837	2.1275	2.05
Jordanian dinar			4.81
Sri Lankan pound			1.00
EU	3.9923	4.0000	4.00
Irish punt	5.1172	5.1925	5.02
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3042	2.5448	2.48

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

02-315620

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.2710 +0.56%
Sterling ... NIS 5.0279 +0.72%
Mark ... NIS 2.1330 +0.75%

NYSE & STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrial 8998.80 +2.28
DJ 300 11877.00 +1.12

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 3752.77 +0.83
Nikkei 225 14120.00 +0.48

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE / AMEX
Last Change
Amot 40.78 -1.76
Bank Leumi 17.20 -0.25

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION AND METALS
US commodities
Last Change
Cotton (L) 1413 -0.46
Copper (L) 112.2 -0.28

London commodities
Last Change
Crude oil (L) 20.1 -0.15
Crude oil (M) 20.1 -0.15

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold 364.5 -1.75
Silver 511 -0.08

New York metal futures
Last Change
Gold 364.5 -1.75
Silver 511 -0.08

London metal fixes
Last Change
Gold 364.5 -1.75
Silver 511 -0.08

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading
Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON
MORNING
Name Price Change % Volume
Mifal Hapais 485 -1.0 3600

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
London
PARIS
FRANKFURT
Stock prices for various international markets including NY, London, Paris, Frankfurt, and others.

Koor Industries leads market up

FELICE MARANZ
Two-Sided Index +0.19%
Maof Index +0.12%
THE stock market rebounded yesterday after two days of losses, led by Koor Industries, which was up 0.75 percent.

speculation that Orkit Communications, in which Mofet holds a stake, will file to sell shares on Wall Street.

Of 998 shares trading across the exchange, 13 shares rose for every 10 that fell.

Some NIS 72 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 11.4m. below Moody's level and about NIS 20m. below last week's average trading level.

Gaining shares yesterday included Mofet Israel Technology Fund, which jumped 10% amid

speculation that Orkit Communications, in which Mofet holds a stake, will file to sell shares on Wall Street.

Orkit is a privately held telecommunications products company that makes modems which allow fast data transfer based on digital signal processing.

Chemical shares were mixed, with Israel Chemicals up 0.5%, Dead Sea Works 0.25% higher, Dead Sea Bromine unchanged and Makhteshim Chemical Works down 0.25%.

Bank Leumi down 0.5%, and First International Bank unchanged. (Bloomberg)

Euromarkets close up on US price news

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP
LONDON (Reuter) - European financial markets closed firmer yesterday, welcoming the much-awaited US producer prices index, which showed falling wholesale prices and subdued inflation pressures in the US.

The Labor Department in Washington said its producer price index fell 0.1% in May, below the average forecasts of independent economists surveyed by Reuters.

The core rate, which excludes food and energy prices, was unchanged, sneaking in below the average forecast of a 0.2% gain and April's 0.1% rise.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SF FFI
MARK - 0.6241/45 71.28/32 0.824/43 3.381/76

Avalanche sweep to Cup Italy stops Russia, 2-1

Colorado cops 1st big league crown with 3OT win over Panthers

MIAMI (AP) — In a brilliant finale, the Colorado Avalanche completed a Stanley Cup sweep for a city that didn't have a team a year ago and never had a major championship.

Defenseman Uwe Krupp decided the stirring, superbly played climax on the 119th shot of the game at 4:31 of the third overtime. His blast from the right point gave Colorado a 1-0 win over the gallant Florida Panthers on Monday.

Finally, after 104 minutes, 31 seconds of thrilling, end-to-end action, the team that moved to Denver after 16 seasons without a title as the Quebec Nordiques subdued the 3-year-old Panthers, who played with a maturity beyond their years.

The series was much closer than Colorado's 4-0 margin in games and 15-4 lead in goals. And Colorado's Patrick Roy and Florida's John Vanbiesbroeck were equally spectacular in their duel of veteran goalies in the clincher.

And Roy won, just as he did in 1993 when he had three overtime victories in the finals as Montreal won the Cup.

"It was a great game," Roy said. "It was unbelievable. It was important to me to stay focused."

Moments after Krupp's fourth playoff goal zoomed past Vanbiesbroeck, fans unleashed a shower of plastic rats, a ritual they followed all season after Panther goals. They had to find another use for them in Florida's last game of the season.

And the Avalanche didn't mind. In the midst of the deluge, they hugged each other in their defensive end, the patch of ice they guarded perfectly.

"They were an unbelievable story," Colorado coach Marc Crawford said of the Panthers. "Hockey is in good hands here in south Florida."

Krupp's goal ended the longest game of a final series since Edmonton beat Boston 15:13 into

the third overtime on May 15, 1990.

Joe Sakic, whose 18 playoff goals were one short of the NHL record held by Philadelphia's Reggie Leach and Edmonton's Jarri Kurri, won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP.

"For the rest of my life I'll always remember this moment," Sakic said.

It could just have easily gone to Roy, who stopped all 63 Panthers shots. Vanbiesbroeck missed just one of Colorado's 56. And that bullet ended a determined game by a Panther team fighting desperately to survive.

"We accomplished a lot this year," Vanbiesbroeck said. "We can't be disappointed with our season. We put up as much resistance as we could."

Krupp was an unlikely hero. The 11-year veteran played in just six games this season and had no goals. He injured his knee on October 6 against Detroit and underwent surgery 15 days later. He didn't resume skating until March 3, and returned to action April 6. In 557 regular-season games in his career he has just 53 goals.

The Avalanche became only the second North American big-league team to win a title in its first season after relocation, joining football's Washington Redskins, who left Boston after the 1936 season.

Led by Roy, Sakic and a veteran nucleus, Colorado won the first two games at home 3-1 and 8-1. Then it quieted the raucous Panther partisans with a come-from-behind 3-2 win in an evenly played Game 3 on Saturday night.

Now Denver, frustrated in four Super Bowl losses by the Broncos, had a championship to celebrate that's far more significant than the International Hockey League title won last year by the Denver Grizzlies, who moved to Salt Lake City after the Avalanche arrived.

It was the sixth back-to-back



GLORY BE - Colorado captain Joe Sakic holds up Stanley Cup after Game 4 win.

sweep in the finals, following New Jersey's win over Detroit that ended a playoffs in which current Avalanche player Claude Lemieux was the MVP.

Colorado is the fifth different champion in five years, following Pittsburgh, Montreal, the New York Rangers and New Jersey. The Avalanche had the NHL's

second best record but was overshadowed during the season by Detroit, which set a league mark with 62 wins. But the Avalanche, the second highest scoring team in the league, made it to the finals by beating the Red Wings in the Western Conference finals after eliminating Vancouver and Chicago.

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) — Pierluigi Casiraghi repaid Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi with two goals to steer Italy to a 2-1 victory over a determined Russian side at Anfield yesterday.

Sacchi struck his neck out by preferring Lazio striker Casiraghi to Fabrizio Ravanelli of Juventus in his line-up for the side's opening Euro 96 game in Group C.

Casiraghi amply justified his inclusion with well-taken goals in the fourth and 51st minutes.

Russia played some excellent soccer before halftime, equalizing through Ilya Tsybmalbar after 20 minutes, but spent most of the second-half on the defensive as Italy, inspired by Parma's Gianfranco Zola, raised its game several notches.

The Italians could even afford to pull off the gifted Alessandro Del Piero at the interval, another Sacchi decision which paid off handsomely. Italy managed just two wins in 11 matches against the former Soviet Union, both on home soil, and were suitably grateful for an early Russian gift courtesy of Stanislav Cherchesov.

The goalkeeper mis-hit a clearance straight to an unmarked Angelo Di Livio whose first-time ball gave the lurking Casiraghi space to swivel and find the far corner from 25 meters with Cherchesov stranded.

Against a side of Italy's defen-

sive capabilities it was a serious blow but the Russians produced some composed moves and deserved its equalizer after 20 minutes.

Onopko gathered the ball on the edge of the area and Valery Karpin's subsequent shot was deflected into the path of Tsybmalbar.

The Spartak Moscow defender took his time and beat Angelo Peruzzi impressively with a left-foot shot inside the near post.

The Italians were looking a shade casual and the pace of Andrei Kanchelskis down the right gave the normally peerless Italian captain Paolo Maldini some rare anxious moments.

Russia also put pressure on a strained Italian outside trap and Igor Kolyvanov was harshly booked for kicking the ball away in frustration after a hairline decision had gone against him.

The appearance of the experienced Donadoni in place of Del Piero merely underlined Sacchi's refusal to favor celebrity players, with Roberto Baggio not even in his squad for the tournament.

It was Zola, though, who made the crucial intervention, slipping a delightful ball into the path of Casiraghi who again finished emphatically with his right foot.

By the time Ravanelli made an appearance with 10 minutes to go Italy could have been out of sight,

although they did have an injury-time scare when Russian substitute Igor Dobrovolsky scored.

Croatia 1, Turkey 0 (half-time 0-0) in a Group D match at the Nottingham City ground yesterday. The game winner came on an 86th-minute score by Goran Vlaovic.

Group A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Netherlands	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Group B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Spain	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Romania	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Group C	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Italy	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Russia	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Group D	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Croatia	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Denmark	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Turkey	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Poland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

No matches scheduled today
TIMETABLE
At Newcastle
England vs. Romania, 8:20 pm
At Birmingham
Switzerland vs. Netherlands, 8:20 pm
Both games televised live on Channel 1

Kashtan, Maccabi TA still at loggerheads

ORI LEWIS

THE turmoil between Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer club and coach Dror Kashtan, who found out about the decision in a chance phone conversation, managed to resist the challenge to his position.

Kashtan has a two-year contract with the club, and it became clear during the dispute that Maccabi will not be seeking his services after the upcoming season, at which point Grant will be re-hired Grant in a long-term deal.

The situation apparently calmed down as Kashtan, Korek and the whole club were treated to a week's holiday at one of the Spanish seaside resorts.

But the respite apparently gave Kashtan a while to think things over, and he has now hit back, demanding that Korek be dismissed and a long-term deal for himself. He has stated that if his demands are not met, he will not continue at the club.

Grant, meanwhile, has agreed to stay on another year with Hapoel Haifa.

a totally stunned Kashtan, who found out about the decision in a chance phone conversation, managed to resist the challenge to his position.

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Olympic hopefuls get news today

THE fate of several Olympic hopefuls was discussed last night at a hearing between Israel Olympic Committee officials, the Elite Sport Unit and the athletes themselves.

The names of the Olympic squad will be released today at a press conference at IOC headquarters in Tel Aviv. Leading the squad of outsiders is archer Yaron Kolesnik who has the

best chance of inclusion even at this late stage. Kolesnik was not granted a visa to the world championships in Indonesia last year and in return FITA, the international archery's governing body, decided to allow him a free ticket to Atlanta. Opposition to his going comes

mostly from director of the Elite Sport Unit Itzik Ben-Melech who claims that Kolesnik's ability does not merit an Olympic ticket.

Among the other hopefuls who presented their cases yesterday and await today's ultimate decision are Lior Carmi (kayaker), Amit Leng or Guy Fogel (judo), Nik Zagrechny (wrestling) and Anna Smazhova (tennis).

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Deri under observation after minor stroke

JUDY SIEGEL and HERB KEINON

SHAS MK Aryeh Deri was under observation yesterday in the neurology department of Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem after suffering a "minor cerebro-vascular accident" (stroke) on Monday.

The 38-year-old MK, who smoked cigarettes heavily when he was a yeshiva student and now puffs regularly on a pipe, complained of a lack of feeling in his arms and hurried to the hospital late Monday night.

A CVA is caused by a blood clot or bleeding in the brain. If it blocks a major blood vessel, it can cause oxygen starvation in the brain tissues, but if it affects a small vessel, it can pass without damage.

Prof. Avinoam Reches of the neurology department said Deri would have to rest for a few days and would fully recover.

Reches said that a Doppler test on blood flow to the brain was conducted and the results for normal; Deri's heart function, also normal, he said.

Reches added that Deri had been upset when admitted and had to be calmed down by the staff.

Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said yesterday that he called the hospital and talked to one of Deri's assistants, who said that he was resting and recovering. Last night a vigil in support of Deri was scheduled to take place in front of the hospital, with supporters saying those who claim Deri is trying to manipulate his way out of his trial are treating him unfairly. In an emotional interview on Israel Radio on Monday morning, Deri pleaded with the press to "lay off him" and stop circulating reports that reported moves by the Likud to replace Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair has something to do with his demands. Benizri said that Deri's hospitalization will not interfere with Shas's coalition negotiations, and that the party has a negotiating team with clear directives from the party's rabbis. Benizri said that the reason Shas did not meet with Likud representatives yesterday had nothing to do with Deri, but was simply because "the Likud never got back to us."

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Lt. Lior Ramon, 21, of Ramat Gan, is buried at Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaul cemetery yesterday. Lt. Yishai Shechter, 21, of Kedumim; St.-Sgt. Gavriel Idan, 20, of Herzliya; St.-Sgt. Eshel Amir Ben-Moshe, 21, of Moshav Yuvalim, and Sgt. Yaniv Roimi, 21, of Afeka, who were all killed with Ramon in Lebanon on Monday, were also laid to rest yesterday. (Dan Ovedivver/Israel Sun)

Barak hears Deri's plea to disqualify his judges

SUPREME Court President Aharon Barak heard Shas MK Aryeh Deri's request that the judges in his corruption trial be disqualified yesterday, and is expected to issue a decision within a few days.

Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, had argued that Deri's judges — Ya'acov Zemah, Miriam Naor, and Moussia Arad of the Jerusalem

District Court — are prejudiced against Deri and his co-defendants, and therefore could not give them a fair trial. Avi-Yitzhak charged that since the trial began three years ago, the judges have made numerous hostile remarks and threats against the defendants, and denied many defense requests.

The "straw that broke the camel's

back" however, was the court's June 3 decision on the defense's request for a summer break, he said. This decision was issued just as the defense was starting to plead "no case" — i.e. that the prosecution had failed to prove its case, so there was no reason for the defense to bring witnesses in response. However, the court wrote that "there is still a long

road to travel until the end of the trial." This, he said, proves, said Avi-Yitzhak, that the court had decided to reject the "no case" arguments without even hearing them.

Government attorney Efrat Barzilai, however, defended the judges' decision not to disqualify themselves.

"This request for disqualification is based on a tendentious and incorrect interpretation of the judges' statements," she said, noting that a defendant's "subjective feeling" of bias was not enough to disqualify a judge. Such a feeling must be backed by objective facts.

Barzilai noted that, in contrast to the picture painted by Avi-Yitzhak, the lower court often denied prosecution requests, granted defense requests, and made hostile comments toward the prosecution. This is all part of the court's efforts to keep a complex and lengthy trial moving, she said, and it is legitimate.

She also reiterated the judges' own explanation for the wording of the June 3 decision: That since the request for a summer recess would be irrelevant if the "no case" argument were accepted, the decision to grant this recess was written "in the event that [these] arguments are rejected."

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Boston	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Calcutta	24-28	28-32	cloudy
Chicago	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Copenhagen	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Helsinki	11-17	17-21	cloudy
London	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Los Angeles	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Madrid	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Moscow	11-17	17-21	cloudy
New York	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Paris	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Rome	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Stockholm	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Tokyo	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Washington	11-17	17-21	cloudy
Zurich	11-17	17-21	cloudy

Winning numbers and cards
In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 22, 28, 34, 38, 43, and 49, while the additional number was 35.

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing the winning cards were the jack of spades, seven of hearts, nine of diamonds and queen of clubs.

Ivry: Peace comes through superior firepower

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ISRAEL's military might and advanced defense technologies were a main factor in pushing the Arab world to seek peace with it, Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry said last night.

"The readiness to make peace by the leaders of Arab countries is not just the outcome of the awareness of the new regional and global reality. It is mainly the product of sobering up and a good understanding by our neighbors that the it is very difficult to defeat the State of Israel on the battlefield, and that it is worthwhile to try to solve the conflict at the negotiating table," he said.

"A significant contribution to this awareness came from our many efforts, which we are still doing, and with the help of our great ally the United States, to maintain and develop Israel's qualitative defensive edge."

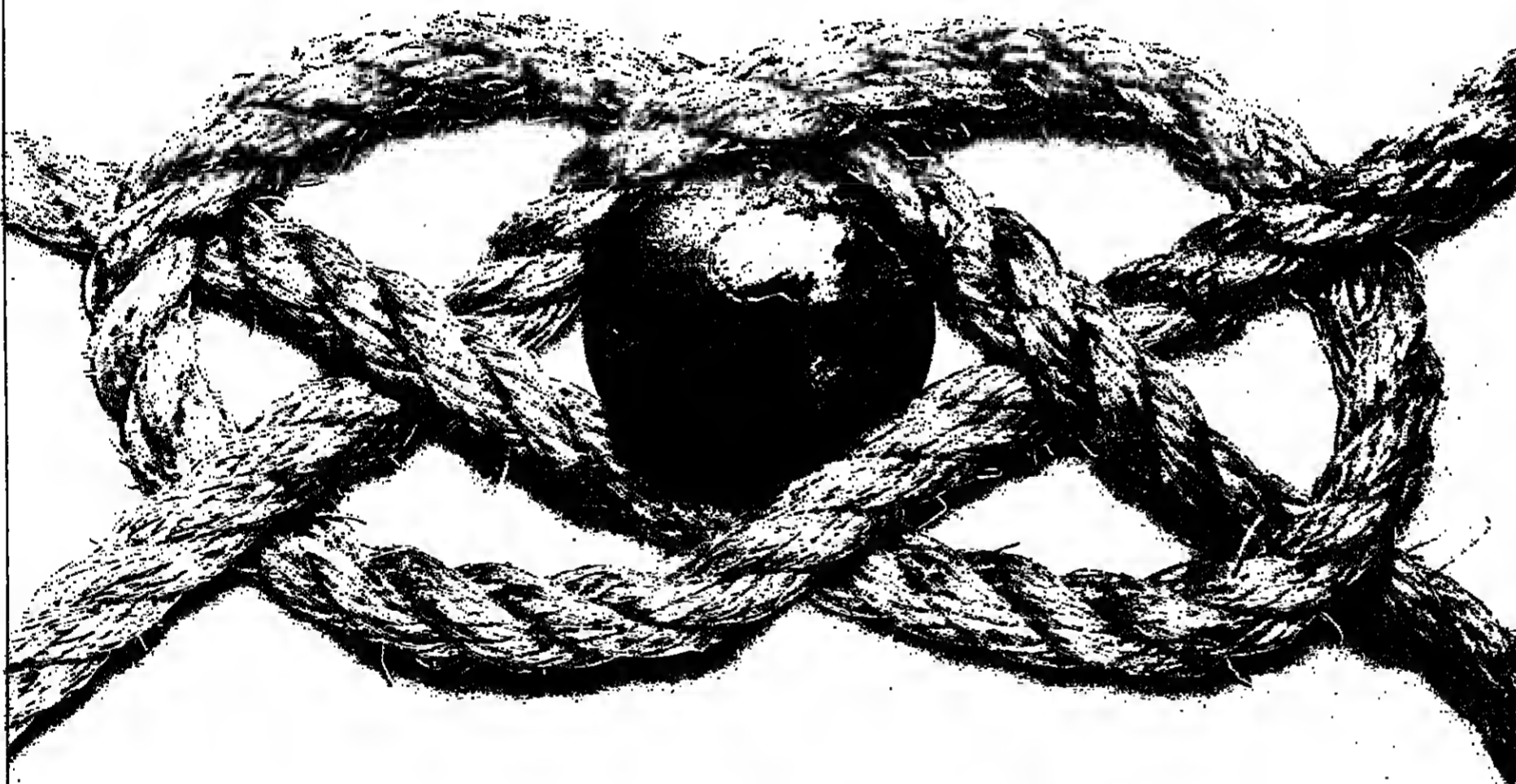
Ivry, a former OC Air Force, made the comments after receiving an honorary doctorate from the Technion for his contribution to national security.

Ivry, who is expected to leave the ministry this summer after a decade of service, noted that the era of peace is putting pressure on defense establishments to cut their budgets. He urged that the defense budget not be slashed.

"We have to use all our forces to protect and develop the technological industries which have been acquired over the years by the defense establishment and the defense industries. These technology sources are a very valuable national asset," he said.

Ivry also called for technology education to be made a "high national priority," and encouraged the strengthening of pre-army technological training among youth.

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ALL WAYS ZIM

Chance ID check foils Hamas terror plot

BILL HUTMAN

A HAMAS activist from Hebron who allegedly planned a terror attack was detained by chance at the Jerusalem City Hall building last week, it was revealed yesterday.

Ghassan Ahmaro, 27, was remanded for the second time yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court for 15 days.

Only after he was remanded for the first time last week, and questioned by police and the General Security Service, did his alleged involvement in Hamas become known.

He was detained for the first time when a routine check of his identity card revealed that it was forged, police said. A police representative told the court Ahmaro planned either a suicide bombing or stabbing.

He was also wanted for unspecified criminal activity, said the representative, who also presented a classified report on the suspect to the court. Ahmaro strongly denied the allegations, and said he came to Jerusalem with a forged ID to find work.

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